

PILGRIMAGE PROGRAMME

Saturday 25th August 2001

12 noon

Sung Eucharist at **St David's Church, Llanthony.**

1.30pm*

Assemble **outside St David's Church** for Pilgrimage Walk.

3.30pm

Ecumenical Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary at **St Mary's Church, Capel-y-ffin** with address by the Right Revd Lindsay Urwin, Bishop of Horsham, followed by the Procession to **The Monastery and Abbey Church** with stations at **the Wayside Calvary** and at **the Statue of Our Lady of Llanthony.**

Car parking will be available in the field at Chapel Farm by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Watkins.

Visitors are asked not to park at or near The Monastery itself, please, as this will cause difficulty, congestion and obstruct the Pilgrimage.

There will be a Walk Leader for the Pilgrimage Walk. The route will be up the secluded lane on the east side of the valley, not on the main road that carries the valley vehicle traffic.

Stout footwear and weatherproof clothing are essential.

*See also the note on page 10 regarding the Pilgrimage Walk.

... continued from page 11

imminent that would have the effect of reducing the VAT charged on repairs to listed ecclesiastical property. The proposed changes were eventually announced in outline in the last Budget, not to be as a direct reduction of VAT payable to the Customs and Excise due to EEC rules, but as a grant of an equivalent amount to that reduction from the Cultural Property Unit. Unfortunately, the relevant EEC and government departments have not yet finalised the details. They have merely stated that if and when the scheme is approved, it

will apply retrospectively to payments made post Budget!

Quite clearly the Trust cannot rely on a mere possibility and discussions are proceeding with the Heritage Lottery Fund to accept phased applications that would minimise the VAT impact. This matter cannot be allowed to drag on any longer and therefore, by the self-imposed deadline of the end of June, the most appropriate and cost-effective application will be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Stanley Knill



Y GWIR YN ERBYN Y BŶD

JESUS



PAX

ONLY

The Father
Ignatius
Memorial
Trust Charity Commissioners'
Registration No. 253225

NEWSLETTER

NO. 29, SUMMER 2001

Trustees

The Revd Hugh Allen
Hon Chairman

Mr Andrew Knill
Hon Treasurer

Mr Douglas Lyne
Hon Archivist

Mrs Elizabeth Hacket Pain
Hon Secretary

The Revd Thomas Dunn SSC
Canon Ivor Ll Davies

Mr Stanley Knill
Mr Will Jackson

The Revd Jeremy Dowding
The Revd Roger Shambrook SSC
Miss Deborah Lyne

Hon Independent examiner of accounts
Mr Adrian Bruton IRRV

Correspondence to:

Hon Secretary,
The Father Ignatius
Memorial Trust,
c/o Tredunno, Cwmyoy,
Mon. NP7 7NG
Telephone: 01873-890565

Contents

- 2 LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN
- 3 PILGRIMAGE 2000:
Report & pictures
- 4 BROCARD SEWELL:
An Appreciation by Wilf Davies
- 6 FR IGNATIUS' INSIGNIA
An Account by Douglas Lyne
- 7 FRONTISPIECE OF
Llanthony Teachings, 1890
- 8 FRONTISPIECE OF
Transactions of the National Eisteddfod
of Wales, Brecknock 1889
- 9 FR IGNATIUS' ADDRESS AT THE
BRECKNOCK EISTEDDFOD, 1889
- 10 A DISAPPEARANCE AT LLANTHONY
by Canon Ivor Davies
- 11 THE ABBEY CHURCH:
A Report by Stanley Knill
- 12 PILGRIMAGE 2001
Details of Programme

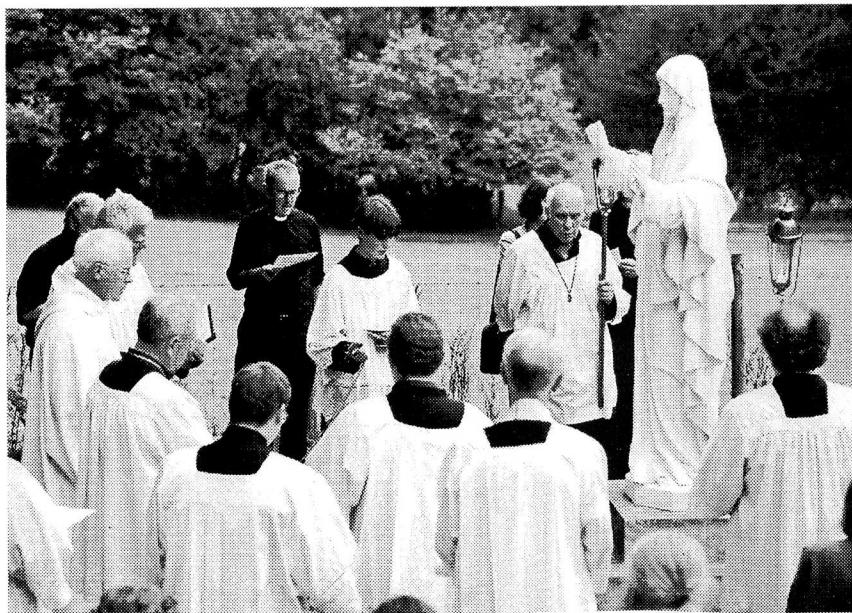
From the Chairman...

FIRST OF ALL, let me thank you for your very generous response to the appeal which accompanied last year's Newsletter. A substantial amount was received in donations over the following few months, and lots of new names have been added to our mailing list; we have also removed some names of those we haven't heard from for some years.

It's a great pleasure to welcome poet and publisher Michael Woodward of Three Peaks Press as Assistant Editor of the Newsletter. I hope friends both new and old will continue to enjoy this annual publication and to support the Trust with regular donations.

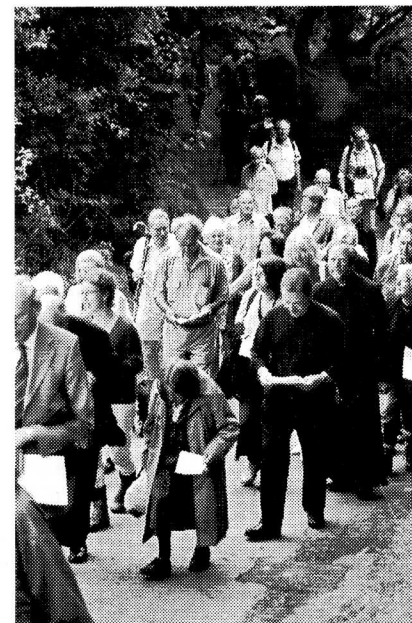
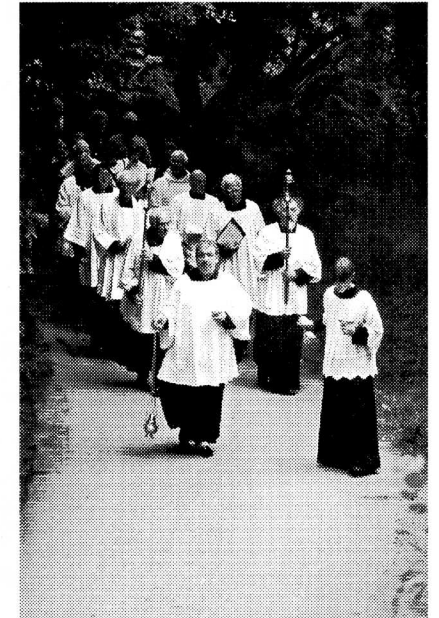
At a recent meeting of the Trustees Mr Andrew Knill was elected Treasurer in succession to Mr Will Jackson, who has kept the books meticulously over the past nine years. Andrew lives "on site" in one wing of the Monastery, and with his father Stanley is able to keep an eye on the state of the ruined Abbey Church—as he reports elsewhere in this issue.

We were fortunate in having a fine day for the Annual Pilgrimage in the millennium year, with encouraging numbers both at the Mass in Llanthony church and the afternoon service at Capel-y-ffin (slightly more at the former than the latter). The change from BCP



...and Pilgrimage 2000

Evensong to the (significantly briefer!) ESBVM Office seems to have been generally appreciated, as was the organ accompaniment at both services by Fr Richard Williams, who is to be inducted as Vicar of Hay-on-Wye with Llanigon & Capel-y-ffin on July 25th. The guest preacher was our good friend and regular pilgrim the Archdeacon of Margam (Fr Martin Williams), who just happened to be celebrating his birthday that day and in whose honour our Secretary and caterer-in-chief had provided a cake, complete with candles; this, too, was generally appreciated!



This year's Pilgrimage is on Saturday August 25th, and will follow the same format: details are given on the back page. With us to preside at the Eucharist and preach in the afternoon will be the Bishop of Horsham (the Rt Revd Lindsay Urwin), who is a member of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd and whose reputation as a spiritual leader is far from being confined to the diocese he serves as an Area Bishop. We look forward to welcoming you for a pilgrimage which continues to appeal to a wide variety both of people and of religious standpoints, and which is a joyful occasion even when (as from time to time happens) the heavens open and it rains!

Hugh Allen

BROCARD MICHAEL GERVEYS SEYMOUR SEWELL

30TH JULY 1912—2ND APRIL 2000



As our last issue was going to press, we received the sad news of the death of FR BROCARD SEWELL, O.C.A.M., the doyen of our trustees.

As a distinguished figure in the worlds of religion and letters, Fr Brocard was accorded full-length obituaries in all the principal daily newspapers.

The following reminiscences of his association with Capel-y-ffin are contributed by Wilfred Davies.

The drawing of Fr Brocard is by Jane Percival.

It appeared on the dustjacket of the autobiographical

Habit of a Lifetime (Tabb House, Padstow 1992; ISBN 0-907018-92-0)

FATHER BROCARD CAME to live with us at the Monastery in 1968 as a direct result of his letter to *The Times*, written without authority, when he called in to question the wisdom of Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, reasserting the Church's prohibition of artificial methods of birth control. This earned him banishment from the Archdiocese of Southwark, and the consequent freedom to spend a year with us then, and further periods between postings in Canada and elsewhere. It was good to have a priest at The Monastery again. Fr Michael (as we knew him) quickly settled down to family life with us—my wife Helen and me and our five children. One of the old single wooden pitch-pine monastic cells open to the rafters in the long South wing became his room. There was daily Mass again in the Eric Gill chapel, which adjoined our living room in the East wing. Visitors to the Monastery would sometimes see Fr Brocard pacing to and fro on the forecourt saying his office in the sunshine, sometimes leading them to believe that monastic life was still alive and well at Capel-y-ffin! He had a dry sense of fun and enjoyed these encounters.

A good deal of practical work had already been done by groups of

volunteer workers in tidying up the interior of the old church. But it was not until Fr Brocard's arrival that we were determined to found The Father Ignatius Memorial Trust, duly approved in time by the Charity Commissioners. Fr Brocard became the senior founder member and it was through his influence that the signatories of our first public appeal in 1967 included the Bishops of Llandaff and Swansea, Mr John Betjeman, Lord and Lady Dynevor, Mr Ivor Bulmer Thomas, Mr Donald Attwater and Mr Arthur Calder-Marshall. Both Attwater and Calder-Marshall were, of course, biographers of Fr Ignatius.

Fr Brocard was born in Bangkok on 30 July 1912, died on 2 April 2000 and was buried at Aylesford Priory in Kent. He had founded and then edited *The Aylesford Review* for many years and had written, I think, some thirteen books.

Fr Brocard's final years were passed at the Carmelite house in East Finchley, whose Prior (Fr Francis Kinsley) presided at his funeral Mass. This was attended by a large company drawn from the many circles in which he had moved during a long and varied life, and which included the Revd Hugh Allen, Mr Douglas Lyne, and Mrs Helen Davies.

Father Ignatius' Insignia

'Y GWIR YN ERBYN Y BYD' —
"THE TRUTH AGAINST THE WORLD"

READERS of this Newsletter may be interested to know the origins of the Words and Insignia which we now use on the front cover, each year, beside the photograph of our founder — Father Ignatius of Llanthony O.S.B. (Order of St Benedict), otherwise the Revd Joseph Leicester Lyne (1837-1908).

In fact these are drawn from the frontispiece to the book of Selected Sermons and Articles — entitled *Llanthony Teachings* — which was published in 1890 by Reginald Berkeley, at the behest of Ignatius himself. The similarity: (Y) Gwir Yn Erbyn y Byd — Jesus Only — Pax — can be seen from the facsimile frontpages of both the Book and the Newsletter, as also reproduced here.

The date 1890 is particularly significant, as it is also saw the publication of the Volume of *Transactions of the National Eisteddfod of Wales* as held at Brecknock (Brecon) the previous year, 1889. The frontispiece to that Volume of 'Transactions' is also reproduced, as it shows that the Motto "Gwir Yn Erbyn Y Byd" (Translation: "The Truth Against the World"), together with the Three Rays of Light above it, are a main part of the Insignia of the National Eisteddfod of Wales — which is, of course, still held each year at the

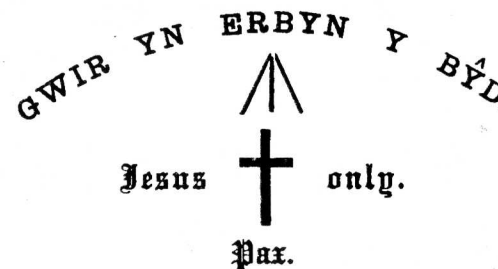
beginning of August, alternately in North and South Wales.

The 1889 Eisteddfod in Brecon is of particular importance in any calendar of the Life of Father Ignatius of Llanthony, as it was on Tuesday 27th August in that year — 112 years ago — that he was received, with the full honours of the Druidic Rank (By the Arch-Druid, CLWYDFARDD) into the Gorsedd of Bards of the Isle of Britain. This body — which was re-created by Edward Williams (IOLO MORGANWG, 1747-1826) in 1792, at Primrose Hill, London — forms the basis of modern Druidism, and is the Governing Body of the National Eisteddfod of Wales.

For the occasion Ignatius adopted the Druidic name of "DEWI — HONDDU" (i.e. "David of the Brook Honddu", which flows through Capel-y-ffin) and delivered an impassioned Oration as the "Druid of the Welsh Church" which at that moment he considered himself to be (as per the frontispiece to *Llanthony Teachings*)

A part of this Oration — which must be considered in the context of the post-Assembly Principality of 2001 — is printed on page nine as a humble tribute to a great Victorian Visionary, from his kinsman.

Douglas Lyne



'LLANTHONY TEACHINGS'

CONSISTING CHIEFLY OF

Selected Sermons and Articles

BY

FATHER IGNATIUS, O.S.B.,

(REV. JOSEPH LEYCESTER LYNE),

Evangelist Monk of the British Church.

DEWI-HONDDU

Druid of the Welsh Church.

Edited, with Short Preface,

BY

REGINALD BERKELEY,

(Formerly King's Scholar at Eton College.)

LONDON:

REGINALD BERKELEY, 29, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.

MDCCCXC.



"Gwir yn erbyn y Bpd."

"DUW A PHOB DAIONI."
"CALON WRTH GALON."

"O IESU NA'D GAMWAITH."
"A LADDO A LEDDIR."

"DUW A'I DANGNEF."

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol y Cymry.

COFNODION

A

CHYFANSODDIADAU BUDDUGOL

EISTEDDFOD ABERHONDDU, 1889.

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD OF WALES

BRECKNOCK 1889.

o dan Olygiaeth E. VINCENT EVANS.

CYHOEDDEDIG GAN GYMDEITHAS YR EISTEDDFOD (GENEDLAETHOL.
(Published by the National Eisteddfod Association.)

1890.

TUESDAY 27TH AUGUST 1889
EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL Y CYMRY / 1889
(Transactions of the National Eisteddfod of Wales - 1889)

Aberhonddu Brecknock (Brecon)

A Special Feature of the Morning Meeting, was the delivery of an Address by the Rev Joseph Leycester LYNE - Father Ignatius of Llanthony Abbey, Order of Saint Benedict, - a Member of the Gorsedd of Bards: (Druidic Name, Dewi Honddu)

Therefore, I say God gave the land to the people of Wales. If you ask me how did the English take possession, I would rather not explain; but as God gave the land to the Cymry, surely the Cymro has a right to Wales, and surely the Cymro has a right to that magnificent love of fatherland which God himself has implanted as an instinct in his breast. I was just now looking at the tops of your grand South Wales hills, and I have stood myself on the magnificent Queen Peak of Wyddfa in the North; and as the mountains of Cambria reach highest to the heavens, so the race, that peoples the mountains, and nestle in the valleys of Wales, is a race that penetrates the profoundest depths of the magnificent historical past. Long before the English, or anything English was, Cambria had her philosophy and literature, and morality and religion. It is the fashion to teach the children over the borders that the Druids and the bards were a ferocious and cruel set of people; they are taught to believe the description that Caesar and Tacitus gave us of the religion of Wales. But what did they know of it? Go to the writings of the old bards. Study the literature and the teaching of the Druids, and the more you examine them the more you will be astonished at the great amount of truth - Christian truth - that rises pre-eminently among their pages. Therefore, I am astonished not to see the Druids' picture, the symbol of God, the three stones, set up in your midst, for the Druids of Wales prepared the Welsh people to receive "ein bendigedig ac anwyl Geidwad Iesu Grist." Yes, the Druids only professed to lead you on to greater heights of truth - to lead you and prepare you for what was coming, so that when the religion of Jesus Christ was brought to Britain it was brought by one of your great warrior kings - the king whose heroism and moral grandeur astonished

Claudius and his Queen in Rome with such an astonishment that they broke off the chains from the hero king of the Cymry in the very streets before the crowds, and Caradog of Glamorgan was received into Caesar's household as a guest. Tacitus tells us that just about that time Christianity was preached in Rome, and Stillingfleet himself, the English bishop - although he never read your triads - he agreed with the probability that Caradog and St. Paul might have grasped hands. Your Christianity, Oh, people of Cymru, is apostolic. Your Christianity, your knowledge of Jesus Christ, was brought to you by your own people in God's providence from the mouth of the apostle; and, therefore, I do not wonder that Wales has always clung to the name that is above every name, the name that you have there on your banner, the name that kindles in the hearts of all true Welsh-men: the love of God incarnate - the love of God brought near to man by the blood of His own Son, Iesu Grist. Brethren, the Christianity in this country is very different from Christianity in England. I do not want to wake any party spirit - I would not speak a word disrespectful of the Roman Catholic or of the Church of England - but I say that neither Roman Catholic nor Church of England have anything to do with the Church of the Cymry, for the Church of the Cymry existed long before there was any Church of England. It existed long before there was any Pope of Rome. It existed when the divine lips, the divinely-inspired lips, of the apostle sent back the good news of Christianity in His salvation to your ancestors by the mouths of your countrymen. Therefore, her history, her origin, her religion, from the Druids to the Christian Church, possesses a magnificent uniqueness of antiquity that I do not think any other Church on the face of the globe can equal.

A Disappearance at Llanthony

I wonder how many of you who are interested in the doings of Fr Ignatius also enjoy the stories of Arthur Machen?

Machen (1873-1947) loved his native county of Gwent and was fascinated by strange happenings. Oddly enough, he never mentions Ignatius or the Apparitions at Capel-y-ffin, though he does refer to Our Lady of Knock: "a number of people seeing the same appearance on a church wall in Ireland" (*The Great Return*, 1915).

But he has one story, 'Opening the Door', first published in 1931, that must surely be of interest to our pilgrims.

The Reverend Secretan Jones was a learned liturgiologist worried about the validity of the consecration formula in the Mass of the Holy Grail. He thought about it so much that his mind began to give way and so, to settle his nerves, he went to stay for a month at a farm near Llanthony in the Black Mountains.

One wild autumn afternoon he set out for a walk, posted a letter to a friend, and was never seen or heard of again.

When his friend opened the letter he found it contained only a slip of paper on which were written

the words:

"Est enim magnum chaos"—
"For there is a great chaos".

This reads like a description of my study. But I think Jones's meaning goes deeper. Perhaps some of our readers who are of a mystical turn of mind might care to ponder the enigmatic message. Should they do so on a wet and windy day in the vicinity of our old monastery we would urge them to beware lest they meet untimely with poor Mr Jones in an infinite void.

Canon Ivor Davies

FOOT AND MOUTH SITUATION

Due to the restrictions associated with Foot and Mouth disease, it is uncertain whether the Walk element of the familiar pilgrimage programme will be able to go ahead this year.

The services and the refreshments at Capel-y-ffin Monastery will not be affected, and will go ahead as usual. Transport will be available if necessary.

For the latest news nearer the pilgrimage weekend, please ring the Honorary Secretary, Elizabeth Hacket Pain.

Telephone: 01873-890565

The Abbey Church

THE CONDITION of the Abbey Church has deteriorated considerably as a result of the winter weather. Almost continuous rainfall, followed at the beginning of this year by heavy snowfall, took its toll on the west end of the church. The precarious high pier at the south-west fell, turning the railings and gate leading to the Monastery garden into a tangled mess. Another section of wall collapsed, showing up the original poor construction. The area is currently fenced off as a safety precaution.

This new problem has given cause to reflect on the proposal that was about to be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding. It may be recalled that an application was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to remove the high parts of the ruin, which are in a dangerous state, and to stabilise the remainder by bonding the stonework together and capping the walls with concrete. This would have left a walled enclosure about ten feet high. It was felt that this would result in a safe structure that our Trust could be satisfied would stand the harsh conditions and only require the minimum of maintenance for many years to come. Also, any maintenance that would be required would not involve access to high parts. Whilst this proposal had the approval of all the parties one has to consult in relation to a listed

building, the Heritage Lottery Fund considered that the high walls remaining were a particularly attractive feature in the landscape. It was therefore necessary to consider the scheme anew.

The trust appointed an architect, David Harvey, and a specialist conservation structural engineer, Jeremy Drinkwater, to prepare a design that would ensure the stability of the ruin and satisfy the requirements of the Heritage Lottery Fund. Unfortunately the cost of the scheme was so much greater than the original proposal that a new problem became apparent. The grants given are dependant on the applicant providing a percentage of the total cost, but as that cost increases so does the percentage that would be required from the Trust. Unhappily very little of the overall cost would be exempt from VAT, and it was that extra VAT imposition that would raise our contribution level from 10% to 25%. Consideration was given to the possibility of voluntarily registering the Trust for VAT purposes and thereby recovering all the VAT paid to the contractor for the work when carried out. That avenue eventually proved to be unsuccessful because of some rulings that had recently been made preventing bodies that were strictly not business enterprises from registering. However it was suggested that changes were fairly

continued on page 12 . . .