

are postponing any celebration of this event until 1972. This will give us time, we hope, to complete the work on the fabric of the church, thus making it a more worthy setting than it is at the moment for act of ecumenical commemorative worship. Plans for the centenary celebrations were discussed by the Trustees at a meeting in June, and an announcement will be made when these are farther advanced.

We should like to thank all those – correspondents, visitors, pilgrims, new friends of Father Ignatius as well as older ones – who have helped us with donations or with the work of their hands. We remember especially Mr Peter Coleman and the members of the Tredillion Venture Scouts who, together with Mrs. Ward and The Young Adventurers Club of Hampstead N.W.3. did most of the work of removing about one hundred tons of masonry and rubble from the floor of the church and various restoration tasks. Also Mrs. Rogers and the Abergavenny Guides who sustained the workers with refreshments and cleaned the statue of Our Lady which stands on the monastery forecourt. We would assure them that we shall do our best to have the church and precincts in the best order possible when we welcome many of them, as we hope to, at the centenary celebration in eighteen months' time.

In order to raise the money required to complete the work we must rely entirely, of course, upon the generosity of all those interested in the life and times of Fr Ignatius. Donations, large or small, all of which will be acknowledged, should be addressed to:—

The Father Ignatius Memorial Trust Fund
c/o Barclays Bank
Abergavenny
Monmouthshire.

for the Trustees

W.I. DAVIES

Secretary

The Father Ignatius Memorial Trust

NEWSLETTER No. 2

November 1970

Trustees: The Reverend F.H. Mountney, vicar of All Saints', Hereford;
Father Brocard Sewell, O. Carm.;
The Reverend John Windle, vicar of Welsh Newton.
Wilfred Davies (secretary);

Archivist: Douglas Lyne, Esq.

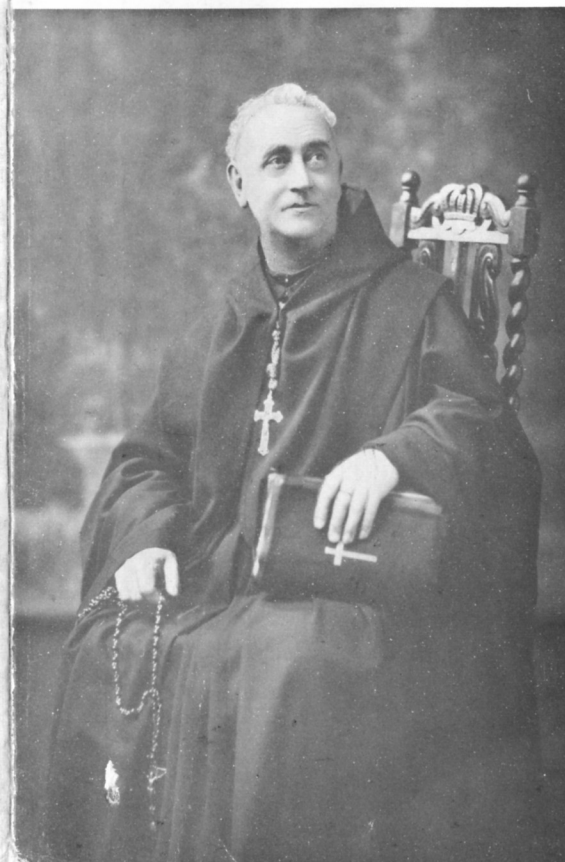
The Monastery
Capel-y-ffin
Abergavenny

THIS Trust was formed, as you may remember, a little over two years ago and registered with the Charity Commissioners, for the purpose of maintaining in perpetuity the tomb of Father Ignatius of Llanthony, together with the fabric of the ruined church within which it lies, here at Capel-y-ffin, adjacent to Llanthony Monastery, now a private residence, of which Father Ignatius was the founder.

In our first newsletter, of May 1969, we reported that the appeal issued

on behalf of the Trust over the signatures of the Bishops of Llandaff and of Swansea and Brecon, Lord and Lady Dynevor, Mr (now Sir) John Betjeman, Mr Ivor Bulmer-Thomas, Mr Donald Attwater, and Mr Arthur Calder-Marshall, had brought in the sum of £160. Of this sum, £73 had been spent on the general maintenance of the church, and on solicitors' fees in connexion with the setting up of the Trust.

The clearing of the rubble and fallen masonry which completely filled the floor of the church and covered the Founder's tomb, had already been completed. Also, some retiling of the tomb had been done and a new



*Fr Ignatius O.S.B.
(The Rev Joseph Leicester Lyne)*

gate placed at the entrance to the church.

Since then, a number of small trees and saplings have been removed from the upper walls of the roofless church. Dignified railings, the work of a local craftsman, have been placed round the tomb, partly with the intention of securing it from further damage from falling masonry.

Actually, we had not been expecting any further trouble of this kind just yet, though obviously it remained a possibility until a great deal more work had been done. So we were taken completely by surprise one evening last June when the north wall of the church was struck by lightning and quite a large quantity of masonry was dislodged. Fortunately, no one was in the church at the time, and the new railings prevented any further damage to the tomb. This incident, however, makes it a matter of some urgency that all loose stones be removed from the upper structure of the building, and that the tops of the roofless walls should be concreted.

In addition, the altar steps need retiling and re-stoning, and further work needs to be done on the tomb. This is chiefly a matter of replacing the tiles bearing the symbols of the four evangelists which form part of the decorated cross on the floor over the tomb. Two of these tiles were so badly damaged some years ago that they were temporarily replaced with tiles bearing no design; the two others that still have designs are badly chipped. A local artist has agreed to design and make a complete set of

four new tiles, with the evangelists' symbols, to replace the old ones.

All this work will cost – not allowing for rising prices! – something in the region of £400; not a large sum, all things considered. When it is done, the fabric of the church should be safe, and free from further dilapidations, for some time to come. Its appearance has already been greatly improved by the red sandstone chippings which now cover the rough earth floor of the nave.

A further development since our last letter is the incorporation in the Trust of the wayside Calvary by the side of the lane leading up to the Monastery drive. This was



The tomb, as it is to-day



The need for urgent works to make safe the church walls is seen here

erected in 1936 as a memorial to Father Ignatius by his nieces, the late Hilda and Irene Ewens. The Trust now becomes responsible for its maintenance.

Under the terms of the Trust the ruined church is to be made available for occasional open-air services, at the discretion of the Trustees, to any religious denomination or ecumenical gathering. On May 24th this year the Society of St David (Anglican) held a Solemn Evensong in the church, which was attended by over fifty people. The bright sunshine and colourful robes of the clergy and servers, and the incensing of the altar during the Magnificat, seemed to bring back something of the joyful splendour of Llanthony Abbey in its prime. This was probably the first religious service to be held within the walls of the abbey church since the departure of the monks in 1909. The service in connexion with the annual Father Ignatius Pilgrimage, held on the last Sunday in August, has always, as far as we know, been held in the Abbot's Meadow in front of the monastery.

St Patrick's Day this year was the hundredth anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the monastery; but for more than one reason we