

embarrassed if they are unable to repay the loan by the end of this year. Will you please send as generous a donation as you can manage to the Trust? The kind donors who have loyally supported our work in the past are few indeed. We should now be glad of the help of all those who believe the cause to be a deserving one. Could a contribution to the Trust Fund be raised perhaps in your own area? A donation from a coffee morning or evening, possibly, would be most welcome. We have a limited number of the well-known Llanthony Tract 'The Autobiography of the Revd. Father Ignatius O.S.B. These were printed in October 1896 and are a rare collector's item. We also have a supply of the tickets of admission specially printed for mission services held by Father Ignatius throughout the country. Copies of these very interesting relics of the past will be forwarded to all those who are able to send a gift, large or small, to the Trust Fund — as long as supplies last. Donations should be addressed to:—

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

We seek to maintain Father Ignatius's tomb in perpetuity; to preserve the fabric of his Abbey Church, not just as a picturesque and historic Gothic revival monument — though indeed it is well worth preserving as such — but as a place of pilgrimage and worship for all Christian people in gratitude for all that he did as a pioneer of the monastic revival and of work for Christian unity. We cannot do this without your help.

Finally, the future! This year's annual pilgrimage and service will be held here at the Monastery on Saturday, 1st September. Please come, if you can, and bring your friends. There will be an Ignatian welcome for all!

*for the Trustees*

FATHER BROCARD SEWELL O. CARM

*The Father Ignatius Memorial Trust*

## The Father Ignatius Memorial Trust

*(Charity Commissioners' Registration Number 253225)*

NEWSLETTER No. 3

August 1973

*Trustees:* The Reverend F. H. Mountney M.A.  
The Reverend John Windle M.A. (Oxon) S.S.C.  
Father Brocard Sewell, Order of Carmelites  
Wilfred Davies (Secretary)

*Archivist:* Douglas Lyne M.A.

*Master of Ceremonies:* Hugh Allen

The Monastery  
Capel-y-ffin  
Abergavenny  
Monmouthshire

TIME passes quickly and there is a good deal to report since our last Newsletter. The great event of 1972 was the pilgrimage held here on Saturday, 5th August to commemorate the centenary of the founding of the Monastery by Father Ignatius. Many will have read the reports and appreciations of the event that appeared in The Church Times, The Tablet, The Universe and the local press. A film of the event and photographs, taken by Oswald Jones, are now preserved in our archives together with a recording of the sermon preached on that occasion.

In the morning a low Mass for the Dedication of a Church, from the old Missale Romanum, was offered in the oratory within the Monastery. 'Terribilis est locus iste; hic domus Deus est, et porta caeli — How awesome is this place; this is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of Heaven.' In the afternoon at 2.30 p.m., the pilgrims assembled at the Chapel on the Border, the tiny church of Capel-y-ffin, forming a long file of all sorts and conditions of men, women and children. Towards the end of the procession came The Father Ignatius Memorial Trustees together with their archivist, Mr. Douglas Lyne (a collateral descendant of Father Ignatius), followed by the clergy, of several denominations, among whom were monks from Belmont Abbey, near Hereford and the Abbot of Nashdom accompanied by Dom Anselm Hughes.

Moving off in glorious sunshine and led by the splendid Abergavenny Town Band, the pilgrims made glad the valley with the sonorous strains of the Lourdes Hymn. A first 'station' was made at the Wayside Calvary where the Gospel for the Feast of the Transfiguration was sung by a deacon, with incensations before and after. There was a second pause on the forecourt of the Monastery



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

at the statue of Our Lady where the Belmont monks sang the 'Salve Regina'.

Solemn Evensong followed in the ruins of the Abbey Church, with pilgrims filling the choir and gathering round the tomb of Father Ignatius. 'I was glad when they said unto me: We will go into the house of the Lord!' The officiant was the Revd. F. H. Mountney, Vicar of All Saints', Hereford; the lessons were read by Mr. Douglas Lyne and by the Revd. John Windle, Rector of Welsh Newton. The sermon followed, its theme being that God had willed Father Ignatius to build the Monastery and Eric Gill to transform it so that, for a hundred years it had been 'a sanctuary of peace and probity, preserved from the near ruin of neglect after the founder's death, to become an abiding place of perpetual renewal for the human spirit'. Outward circumstances had changed; the essential purpose and vision of Father Ignatius however had not failed. For more than a century, the Monastery had been, in Eric Gill's words, 'a cell of good living'. It had passed on to others 'the fruits of contemplation' through the preaching of Father Ignatius, through the beauty of the work of Eric Gill and through the Christian family life that followed. After the final prayers, the Blessing was given by the Abbot of Nashdom and the service ended with the rousing and moving verses of 'Onward Christian Soldiers'.

Tea was provided for everyone in the cloister garth and, for the first time, visitors were able to see the splendid permanent collection of Ignatian relics and photographs which had been assembled by the Trust. The assembly of so much interesting material was mainly due to the labours and generosity of our archivist, Mr. Douglas Lyne. The mounting of the exhibition owed much to the skill and hard work of Hugh Allen who also, as Master of Ceremonies, co-ordinated all the events of this memorable day.

One cannot record here the names of all the old friends, and the new ones, too, whom we were happy to see present. Most of them, fortunately, are preserved in our Visitor's Book. But we should at least mention perhaps Dr. Cecil Gill, Eric's brother, and Canon Victor de Waal, the chancellor of Lincoln Cathedral. We also welcomed the presence of the Rt. Revd. Francis Glenn, representing the Rt. Revd. Geoffrey Paget-King, on whose behalf he presented to the Trustees, in a brief

ceremony, the great relic of the Holy Thorn, given to Father Ignatius by his first biographer, the Baroness de Bertouch, and which has been in other hands since the ending of monastic life here at the Monastery.

This year, 1973, on the evening of Holy Saturday, April 21st, a recital in aid of the Trust Fund was held at King Henry VIII School, Abergavenny. This was part of an effort to recover the cost of repairs to the tomb of Father Ignatius and of repairs to the fabric of the church. The well-known London-based Eric Bowie String Quartet gave a performance of Haydn's 'Seven Last Words from the Cross'. Between the sonatas, poems from the Anglo-Saxon, and by Henry Vaughan, Vernon Watkins, T. S. Eliot, Louis

*The Gospel at the Wayside, Calvary  
- centenary 1972*



*The 'Salve Regina' at the statue of Our Lady - centenary 1972*

MacNeice and others were superbly read by Frances Horovitz, the well-known poet and broadcaster. We are particularly grateful to these artistes, who gave their services free, in a generous attempt to further the aims of the Trust, and to all those who gave the function their welcome support.

Now, to come to the present, we have to tell our friends and helpers and indeed all who are concerned to keep alive the memory and message of Father Ignatius, that we continue to face an anxious financial situation. We have already spent more than £850 on the work of restoration and attendant expenses. £450 of this was taken up last year when we simply had to get the Abbey Church made safe for public entry in time for the Centenary celebrations and other future events. This involved capping the ruined walls with cement to prevent further collapse. Much more structural work must be undertaken within the next few years if the building is to be permanently preserved. Last year's urgent work was made possible only by the timely intervention of an anonymous well-wisher who offered the Trust an interest-free loan of £400 so that we could get on with the job. This kind loan is now due for repayment and we have not got the funds to meet it. Since last year few donations have been received apart from small sums from the church alms box and the modest proceeds from the Eastertide recital of music and poetry. We are not discouraged but we do feel some anxiety. £400 is not, in itself, a large sum for these days but it is a large sum for us. Certainly, the Trustees will be

