

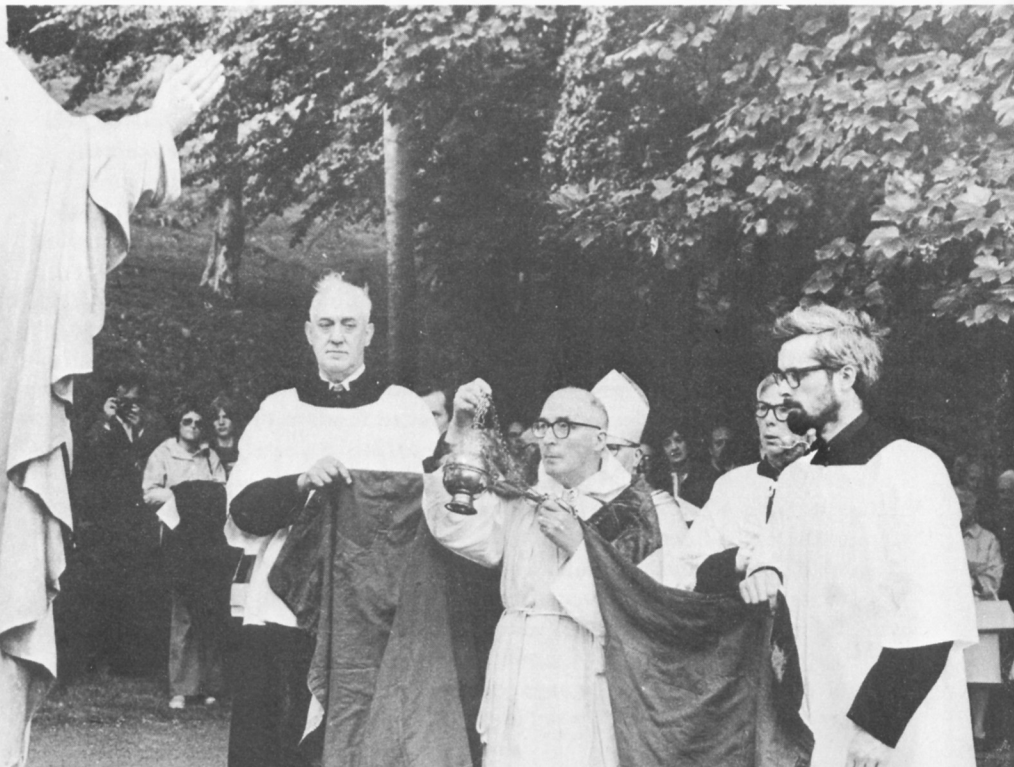
The Pilgrimage Day for 1975 will be Saturday August 30. In the morning there will be a simple act of commemoration, with an address, at Fr Ignatius's tomb at Capel-y-ffin; after which our pilgrims, including those who cannot arrive so early, are asked to join the big ecumenical pilgrimage that is to be held on the same day at Llanthony Priory, to mark the eighth centenary of the priory's foundation. (It will be recalled that Fr Ignatius had wished to obtain possession of the ruins of Llanthony Priory and to restore them to monastic use; a project he was unable to realise). If those of you who would like to receive full details of the Llanthony Priory Centenary Pilgrimage would write direct to me at Whitefriars School, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham GL52 6NT — enclosing, if possible, a stamped addressed envelope, — I will see that you are informed in good time. The Llanthony Pilgrimage is not organised by our Trust, but by an independent Committee, of which I am a member, as are two others of our Trustees, Hugh Allen and Douglas Lyne.

All letters concerning the Trust and its activities, should be addressed to our secretary, Mr Wilfred Davies, at The Monastery, Capel-y-ffin, Abergavenny, Gwent NP7 7NP. Please note carefully the revised County postal address and Post Code.

We thank you for your support, past, present, and future, and wish you a propitious New Year.

*for the Trustees*  
**FATHER BROCARD SEWELL, O. CARM**  
*The Father Ignatius Memorial Trust*

*The procession pauses at the Statue of Our Lady.*



## The Father Ignatius Memorial Trust

*(Charity Commissioners' Registration Number 253225)*

NEWSLETTER No. 4

Spring 1975

*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)  
 Douglas Lyne M.A. (Archivist)  
 Hugh Allen (Master of Ceremonies)

The Monastery  
 Capel-y-ffin  
 Abergavenny  
 Gwent NP7 7NP

IT is two years since we sent you our last Newsletter; our friends and supporters cannot say that we pester them! But such an interval is really too long. In future, we shall try to let you know more often what the Trust is doing. Its aims, as you know, are to keep alive the memory of Father Ignatius of Llanthony, and his teaching; to see that his tomb is kept in good order in perpetuity; and to maintain the fabric of his ruined church at Capel-y-ffin, not just as an important Gothic Revival monument, but as a living sanctuary of ecumenical worship.

In 1973 the annual pilgrimage in memory of Fr Ignatius took place on Saturday September 1st, a real Black Mountains wet day. However, some fifty pilgrims

braved the weather and cheerfully endured a good soaking as the procession moved from Capel-y-ffin church to The Monastery. Then the sky cleared, and the rain held off until the end of Evensong, at which Father Windle, the doyen of our Trustees, was the preacher.

Last year, 1974, the pilgrimage was on a larger scale; over two hundred people came — among them a group of members of The Kilvert Society; — and once again the Abergavenny Town Band was present to accompany the hymn-singing. Father Brocard, of the Carmelite Order, was the officiant. The Bishop of Hereford, who had consented to preside, was prevented by illness; but his place was taken by the Assistant Bishop in the diocese, the Rt Revd W. A. Partridge. His presence, and also the inspiring address that he gave, was much appreciated. The first lesson at Evensong was read by Lady Betjeman, the second by the Revd Ivor Davies, vicar of Hay-on-Wye with



*Fr. Ignatius OSB*  
*(The Revd. Joseph Leycester Lyne)*

Capel-y-ffin. After the service, tea was served in the cloister garth, and, in the Monastery, a special and comprehensive exhibition of 'Ignatiana' added to the significance of the occasion.

On the pilgrimage day, Saturday August 31, the pilgrims' offerings came to just over £66. When the expenses of the event had been covered, this left us with about £90 in the bank. Before the end of the year we hope to have completed the repayment of the £400 interest-free loan which a kind benefactor made to us in 1972 so that we might make secure the crumbling walls of the church, and repair Fr. Ignatius's tomb, in time for the centenary.

Interest in Fr Ignatius continues to grow, not least among younger people. In September a new play about Ignatius by a young writer, Humphrey Carpenter, was produced as one of the 'fringe' activities at the Edinburgh Festival. The author kindly allowed us to read the play before it was produced, and we must admit to not having felt very happy about it. However, one of the Trustees, Mr Douglas Lyne (who is related to Fr Ignatius) was able to see the play in Edinburgh, and his impressions were rather more favourable. A great deal depends on the way the text of a play is interpreted by the actors and producer. The young actors and actresses, from the Oxford University Dramatic Society, were enthralled by the story of Fr Ignatius, and seemed to feel great sympathy with him.

The Father Ignatius Archive at The Monastery continues to grow. A recent addition is a typescript copy of the correspondence which passed in 1863 between Brother Ignatius (as he was then) and the Master of the Society of the Holy Cross, the celebrated Father Mackonockie, concerning the so-called 'Claydon Affair'. We are greatly indebted to the present Master of the Society, the Reverend Alfred Simmons, for presenting us with this valuable biographical material, and we thank him most warmly.

Another principal object of the Trust is the care and preservation of the Father Ignatius Archive, records of the Llanthony Monastery community, editions of Fr Ignatius's writings (hymn books, sermons, novels, etc.), various of his family heirlooms, personal possessions, such as books (including a family Bible and his annotated copy of *Hawker's Daily Portion*), his croziers etc. We also have a portrait of Fr Ignatius in oils. This has just been most splendidly restored by the Little Venice Gallery as a donation to the Trust by Mr Edward A. Kanter, whom we cordially thank for this kind and generous contribution to our work. This picture now hangs, appropriately, in the Abbot's Room here but will be on view on special occasions. There is also a growing photographic archive, which

*The Rt. Revd W. A. Partridge, Asst. Bishop of Hereford, addresses the Congregation.*



*Lady Betjeman reads the first lesson to Pilgrims assembled in the ruined church, which is open*

includes Mr Oswald Jones's films of the last three pilgrimages. To Mr Jones we are indebted also for the photographs of the 1974 pilgrimage which are reproduced in this Newsletter.

This material, which is available for inspection by members of the public, will be an increasingly important source of study for students of Victorian church history and of the Catholic Revival in the Church of England, as well as for future biographers of Fr Ignatius. Its care is rapidly becoming one of the Trust's major responsibilities; something we had not foreseen earlier. The collection will continue to grow, so that there is already a problem of storage space, and also of heating and lighting. (The cold and damp of Black Mountains winters can quickly cause books and papers to deteriorate unless they are properly cared for). And there is an additional need for adequate filing-cabinets, show-cases etc.

It seems clear that the care, maintenance, and expansion of the Archive may prove to have as big a claim on the Trust's limited funds as the care of the ruined church and the Abbot-Founder's tomb. We must strike a careful balance between the two. So far, the financial help you have given us has made it possible to secure the walls of the church against any further danger of immediate collapse, to clear the nave of debris and rubble, to repair Fr Ignatius's tomb and to enclose it within dignified railings of solid ironwork. Also, stone chippings have been laid down on the floor of the nave, from which the tiling had long since disappeared; further railings have been added at other points in order to safeguard the church against the incursions of mountain ponies or other animals.

Basically, the church is now in good order as a place for open-air worship, and we hope it will be increasingly used in this way. But the sanctuary, and the sanc-



*to the sky. The tomb of Father Ignatius is in the Chancel Floor (foreground left).*

tuary steps which are unsafe badly need extensive restoration. We should also like, in due course, to provide a simple stone altar to replace the present temporary altar, which is assembled from loose stones and fallen masonry, and is more symbolic than usable.

These are modest, and strictly limited aims, in keeping with the difficulties of the times.

But even these small and necessary improvements are bound to be expensive in the days of inflation. In order that they may be achieved — and here we would like to thank Mr A. R. Hamilton for his expert advice — we are hoping to put the Trust's finances on a more secure basis. The only income that we have at present comes from gifts from the Trust's supporters, the collection taken at the annual pilgrimage service, and the proceeds from the alms box in the church wall. We believe that these rather 'random' sources of income should now be supplemented by something more specific and regular, and that therefore the best thing we can do is to form an association of FRIENDS OF FATHER IGNATIUS OF LLANTHONY who will donate a regular sum by Covenant each year in support of the Trust's work. We are enclosing particulars of this Covenant scheme with this Newsletter, and we hope that you will give it your support. However, if you do not wish to enter into a regular commitment of this kind but simply wish to send an occasional gift to help with the work of the Trust, please address it to:—

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

