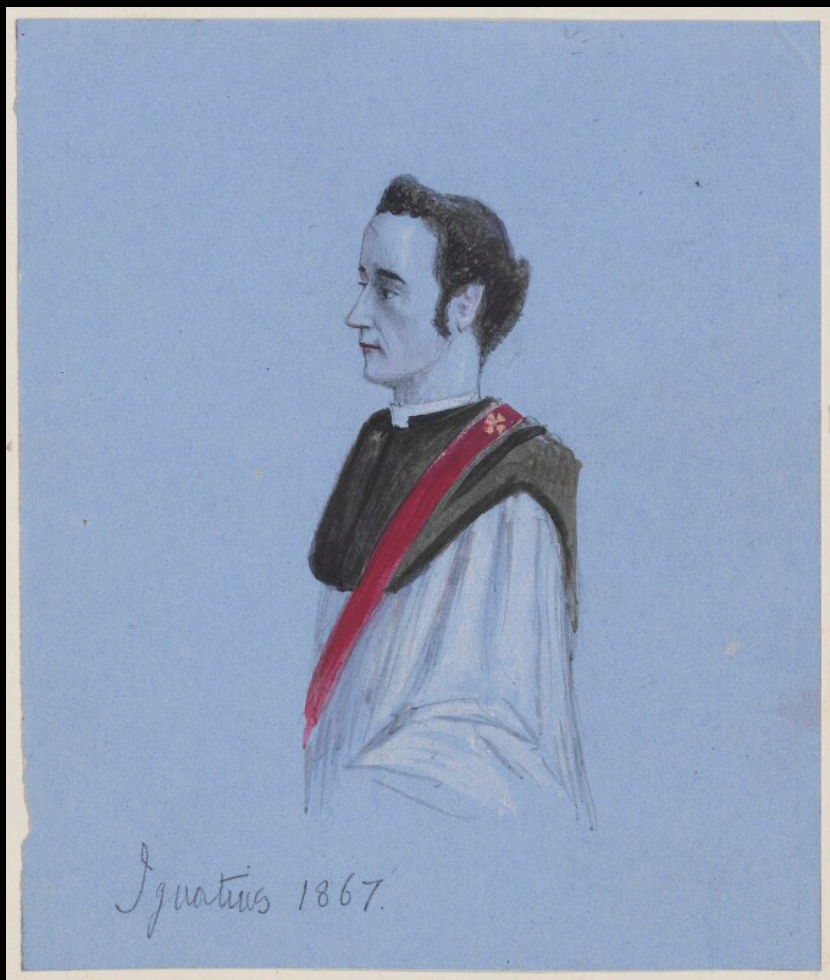


The Father Ignatius Memorial Trust

NEWSLETTER

NO. 51 SPRING 2023

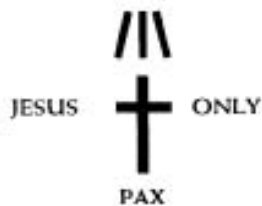


**A rare watercolour of Brother Ignatius
from the year 1867,**

reproduced by kind permission
of the National Portrait Gallery.

The ecumenical **Father Ignatius Memorial Trust** was established in 1967 and organises an annual Pilgrimage to Llanthony & Capel-y-ffin. The Trust has in its care the statue of Our Lady at Capel-y-ffin Monastery as well as the ruins of the adjacent Abbey Church, and the nearby Wayside Calvary. The Monastery was founded in 1870 by Fr Ignatius OSB (Joseph Leycester Lyne 1837-1908), first restorer of monastic life for men in the Church of England and popular mission preacher. Fr Ignatius' body is buried within the Abbey Church; further information about him can be found on the Trust website: www.fatherignatius.org.uk

Y GWIR YN ERBYN Y BŶD



Charity Commissioners'
Registration No. 253225

Trustees

Caroline Woollard (Hon Chairman)
Hugh Allen
Dr Peter Davies (Hon Secretary)
Revd Canon Philip Wyn Davies ssc
Revd Julian Gray
Andrew Knill (Hon Treasurer)
Stanley Knill
Rachael C. Rogers (Curator,
Abergavenny Museum)
Rev Bernard Sixtus
Revd Richard Williams
Michael Woodward (Newsletter Editor)
Consultant: Philip Chatfield

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Update on the Work of the Trust

WELCOME TO THE 2023 Fr Ignatius Memorial Trust Newsletter; we very much hope you will enjoy reading it and learning more about the work of the Trust. Although the Abbey Church is now sadly unsafe for public access, the Trust continues to maintain its lower west wall, outside which the annual Pilgrimage ends, as well as the site of the Wayside Calvary, and the statue of Our Lady outside the monastery. In addition, we hope you will be able to join us for the annual Pilgrimage to Llanthony and Capel-y-ffin organised by the Trust (see back page for details).

From the Chairman...

Ascension Day 2023

Welcome to our Father Ignatius Memorial Trust newsletter. This past year has been no less turbulent than the one I wrote of in my 2022 letter, yet, as hoped for, our Llanthony pilgrimage proved to be as spiritual, calming and just plain enjoyable as it has always been—even the weather behaved itself.

It takes a great deal of work to ensure the pilgrimage, the highlight of the Trust's year, runs smoothly, from updating and printing the manual, hymns and readings to writing sermons; from providing tea and cake at the Monastery to ensuring foliage is trimmed around the Calvary and the road leading to it is not strewn with horse muck!

The 2022 pilgrimage was blessed by having with us the Statue of Our

Lady of the Waters and the Wye, carved by Philip Chatfield, fresh from her 78-mile journey down the River Wye from Hay to Monmouth. Many thanks to the brave souls who carried the statue in procession from St Mary's, Capel-y-Ffin to the monastery—no easy task. We were further blessed by having Fr Sam McNally Cross, Vicar of Kensal Town, London, as our preacher at Evensong. St Mary's itself was looking resplendent in a new coat of paint and it was a joy to be able to use the church once more, after having had to hold the 2021 service outside because of renovation work.

But there are two people who I would like to thank specifically. Roger and Brenda have travelled from Gloucestershire to this tucked-away part of Wales for very many years,



Brenda and Roger serving at the pilgrimage Eucharist

...the Chairman continues

acting as servers at both St David's and Capel-y-Ffin. It is no mean task to carry those candles up the incline from church to monastery—Brenda even carried the cross last year. By their own admission, though, they are getting a wee bit long in years to maintain these roles. The Trustees would like to thank them for their long and faithful service and very much hope they will continue to support the day as pilgrims in the future, being served rather than serving. In the meantime, we are looking for volunteers to help with this aspect of the pilgrimage—if you know of anyone, please let our Secretary know.

We have said farewell to one Trustee and welcomed another during this past year. Fr Jeremy Dowding has given up his role as Trustee because of ill health. He travelled from Suffolk for a great many years of to attend our meetings and the pilgrimage before moving to Crickhowell a few years ago. We wish him and his family well for the future.

Fr Julian Gray, Ministry Area Leader of the North Monmouthshire Ministry Area, which includes Llanthony, has agreed to become a Trustee. He hopes (weddings, etc, permitting) to preside at the St David's Eucharist, at which the preacher will be another of our trustees, Fr Richard Williams, Vicar of Hay. Fr Philip Wyn Davies will preside at St Mary's, Capel-y-Ffin and lead the procession to the

Monastery. The preacher at Evensong will be Fr Matthew Carney, of Our Lady & St Michael's RC Church in Abergavenny. So we have much to look forward to (please see the back page for details).

Archive

An important part of the Trust's work is building up an archive of material relating to Fr Ignatius—and this year we're spreading our net to the other side of the world to further that. We hope to acquire a copy of Dr Donald Kerr's study of the Revd William Ardene Shoults (an associate of Ignatius) which has recently been published in New Zealand.

The Trust has also agreed to help fund the publication of a book celebrating Our Lady of the Waters & the Wye to which both Philip Chatfield and Fr Richard Williams have contributed. We are sure the book will appeal to many of our readers, and hope it will help to spread the word about the Trust and the Pilgrimage.

An administrative alteration to the Trust is in process. This is outlined on page 5.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and look forward to perhaps seeing you in September. In the meantime, please do keep up to date with the news by logging on to our website or our facebook page, at the links below.

Caroline Woollard
Chairman

ONLINE

Fr Ignatius Memorial Trust is at: www.fatherignatius.org.uk
Our Facebook page is: www.facebook.com/fatherignatius

A Change to Come: from a Trust to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation...

OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, we have been looking at the way the Trust is structured and, for reasons which will become obvious, the Trustees have agreed in principle that they wish to transfer the Trust's property (including the Calvary, statue of Our Lady, the Abbey Church, and the Trust's cash reserves) to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("CIO") by converting the current Trust into a CIO.

The reason for the proposal to convert to a CIO relates to the Trustees' potential public liability. The Trustees have been advised that, as things stand, they have individual liability should, for example, someone injure themselves on Trust property and then take legal action against the Trustees. Conversion to a CIO will alleviate this concern, as any liability will then be borne by the CIO rather than the individual Trustees.

A CIO is a type of incorporated charity vehicle regulated by the Charity Commission. The Trustees intend that the new CIO will be named "The Father Ignatius Memorial Trust". The Trustees also intend that the new CIO's charitable objects will be aligned with the objects of the existing Trust, and that those responsible for the administration of the CIO will be the current Trustees.

The Trustees intend that the use made of the Trust's property will be entirely unaffected by this change. The Trust's property will remain as places of pilgrimage, prayer and worship, and the annual pilgrimage will continue unaffected.

The proposal to convert to CIO status will require permission from the Charity Commission, and the Trustees aim to put the matter to a formal vote at the next Annual General Meeting of the Trust.

If you have any questions about this proposal, please do get in touch with the Trust Secretary, Dr Peter Davies.

What is a CIO: Charitable Incorporated Organisation?

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation, referred to as a CIO, is a new type of legal format for a registered charity. The intention is to afford charities limited liability without having to register as a limited company at Companies and as a registered charity with the Charity Commission...

- is an incorporated form of charity which is not a limited company
- only has to register with the Charity Commission and not Companies House
- is only created once it is registered by the Charity Commission
- is a legal entity that can enter into contracts in its own right
- has trustees who will not have any liability for the debts of the CIO, in normal circumstances

www.formationsdirect.com/what-is-a-charitable-incorporated-organisation

The Annual Pilgrimage 2022

With a guest appearance from Our Lady of the Waters & The Wye,
carved by Philip Chatfield

Procession led by Fr Bernard Sixtus
& our guest preacher, Fr Sam Cross





Young Leicester

Hugh Allen

IF YOU CAN PUT UP WITH her overblown prose style, you will find in the Baroness de Bertouch's biography of Father Ignatius a full account of his career during the years immediately preceding and following his ordination to the diaconate. A few details, however, can be added to the story.

Joseph Leicester Lyne prepared for ordination at Trinity College, Glenalmond, founded in 1847 by Gladstone and others as both a public school and a theological seminary. The latter department moved to Edinburgh in 1875 following a fire, and was replaced by an ecumenical non-residential scheme in 2015; the school, however, continues to flourish in its original location.

According to the Baroness his studies at Glenalmond took place in the period 1856-59, most probably just the two and a bit years from the autumn of 1856 to the beginning of 1859; she says he was "barely 21" when he left, having attained that age in November 1858. His admission had been sponsored by the Bishop of Moray and Ross, Robert Eden, who was related in some way to his mother (tracing the exact link is beyond my competence). Co-incidentally his ordination on 23 December 1860 was at the hands of another Robert Eden, Bishop of Bath and Wells (otherwise 3rd Baron Auckland) and brother of the novelist Emily Eden, who must also have been a distant relation. Contemporary newspaper accounts explain that he and the

other Exeter candidates were ordained at Wells that year because their own bishop (Henry Phillpotts) was "too feeble" – he would, however, remain at his post until his death (aged 91) nine years later, the fashion for episcopal retirement having not yet caught on.

Leicester's fees at Glenalmond were paid by Miss Louisa Loscomb, younger of two spinster sisters whose acquaintance he had made while under the tutelage of George Newenham Wright, an Irish-born clergyman who combined running a small school in Worcester with authorship of numerous travelogues and other minor works. The Loscombs lived in College Yard Precincts, immediately opposite the east end of the cathedral, and their considerable inherited wealth issued in regular benefactions to local churches and other worthy causes.

Another family with Worcester connections were the Camerons, and Leicester may have met them or at least heard about them at this time even if they were no longer permanently resident there. Archibald Cameron had been a solicitor in the city and his wife Mary (née Roberts) was daughter of a former Rector of nearby Broadwas. Some time after her husband's death in 1846 she moved to Scotland, settling at Lakefield House in Glenurquhart. It was here and in the nearby estate church built by her son that he found a home and an opportunity to minister as licensed catechist (probably quite briefly) from April 1859.



St Ninian's Church, Glenurquhart

Before that, he had stayed in Inverness with a family named Anderson, and begun his catechetical work. The Baroness names the scene of these labours as "Blinkbonnie", but Fr Len Black of that city (to whom I'm grateful for this and other information) assures me that there is no such place in those parts, and that his early work was in fact in Nairn and Forres, respectively 16 and 26 miles further east.

Both phases of this ministry were cut short because of his uncompromisingly extreme churchmanship. A report in the *Inverness Advertiser* of 22 December 1859 included verses from a carol of his composition which from such lines as "Bow we down, then, lowly, / At Thy Mother's feet" the writer considered an example of "Mariaolatry" (sic). Accompanying the report was a letter from Bishop Eden disclaiming Leycester's alleged connection with his (the Bishop's) school, and prohibiting use of the carol in churches of his jurisdiction; a follow-up letter in the next week's issue pointed out that "for some time" he had been deprived of his licence. The good Bishop may perhaps have

regretted extending his patronage to his young relative, although like many who favoured him during the next few years (Fr Prynne, Dr Pusey, Miss Sellon, Fr Lowder....) he probably considered that with age and experience he would acquire tact and discretion. Episcopal Scotland was only just emerging from a century or more of repression and legal restriction, and was in no mood for exotic devotions.

In the autumn of 1863, now with shaven crown and in monastic habit (although in town wearing trousers, and a wide-awake hat, according to the *Stonehaven Journal*), he was back in Scotland, hoping to establish either a branch of his Claydon establishment or a replacement for it. Earlier that year, around the time of his arrival in Suffolk, it was reported that the little community he had set up in Plymouth eighteen months earlier had only recently given up the ghost. Numbering just two men and a "little boy" (*Western Daily Mercury*, 2 February 1863) it had been given a home by Miss Sellon's sisterhood in return for gardening and other chores, but its end came when the two men (Brothers Thomas and Vincent) found themselves unable to resist the lure of the International Exhibition in South Kensington. Left to himself the boy locked up the house in Wyndham Place, returned the key to the sisters and went elsewhere. Could he have been the then eight-year old Thomas Bray, known to have been a protégé of Ignatius's in Plymouth and who ten years later, succumbing to pressure from his erstwhile patron, became Brother Dunstan, one of the longer-lasting Llanthony monks?

An 'Outspoken Zionist'

Ignatius' friendship with the Jewish community

**From the Jewish Chronicle of January 31st 1908,
which included a lengthy interview with Fr Ignatius**

"Our interview with Father Ignatius published in this issue will be read with the attention that so exceptional an utterance deserves.

The Monk of Llanthony has long been known to the Jewish community as an admirer of the Hebrew race and a deeply interested student of Jewish affairs. But his most intimate Jewish friends were hardly prepared for so forcible a pronouncement as that with which he has now favoured our columns.

One cannot help being struck by the absolute consistency of the Reverend Father's position. Taking his stand upon the Old Testament as the Word of God, literally inspired in all its parts and details, he has no hesitation in regarding Israel as the chosen people, divinely set apart from the rest of the world to become a blessing to mankind, and the depositaries of a special code of religious ordinances which are binding upon the Jewish conscience in all conditions and circumstances.

Hence, on the one hand, there is no justification for the well-meaning attempts of Christians to convert Jews from their ancient creed. Their absorption into their gentile surroundings would be fatal to the declared purpose of Revelation. Hence, on the other hand, it behoves Jews to be faithful to their divine heritage. They must be proof against the desire for unauthorised changes and innovations which detract from the dignity of a grand old ritual.

No orthodox Rabbi has ever pleaded more earnestly for the retention of the *alt-modisch* in Judaism, or denounced the assimilating tendencies of the age in more scathing terms. Father Ignatius is opposed to all religious reforms, whether in the Jewish or the Christian church, and he attributes their encroachment largely to the growth of the Higher Biblical Criticism. With this movement he will make no terms whatever. If the Bible be the Word of God it is above criticism, and if it is not so

entirely true as to be independent of criticism it is not true at all.

As a devout Christian, he is utterly opposed to anything in the nature of anti-Semitism, for, as he points out, it is the height of inconsistency for Christians to persecute a people to whom they owe everything they treasure most. Nor is he satisfied merely to adopt an attitude of benevolent neutrality. An ardent believer in the prophecies

of Israel's restoration to Palestine, he was, as he tells us, an outspoken Zionist long before Herzl, to whose movement he has given considerable practical encouragement.

No-one is acclaimed more heartily on Zionist platforms than the Reverend Father, and no-one is more deserving of the admiration of Jews, to whatever section they may belong."

© Jewish Chronicle

Our Cover Picture...

... is a rare watercolour of Fr Ignatius from the year 1867, reproduced by kind permission of the National Portrait Gallery. This was the year following the collapse of his short-lived monastery in Norwich, in the summer of which he moved his little brotherhood from its temporary home in Stoke Newington to Laleham-on-Thames, where it remained until the move to Llanthony in July 1870.

During this period he combined leadership of his community with the role of weekend "lecturer" at two successive London churches. Here he is shown "in action" in one of the latter, with a full head of hair and (relatively) conventional Anglican pulpit attire, although in earlier photographs he appears with shaven crown and monastic habit. It is known that at this stage, if not later, he was prepared to accept a measure of compromise in such matters.

The picture was presented to the N.P.G. in 1966 by the Reverend James Vernon Wilson (1881-1972), whose last incumbency had been that of the well-known Anglo-Catholic parish of St Mary, Somers Town.

Fr Wilson's gift included a similar portrait from the same year of A.H. Mackonochie (Fr Ignatius's predecessor at St George's Mission; later Vicar of St Alban's, Holborn, and Master of the Society of the Holy Cross), and pencil drawings from 1897, respectively of Fr Ignatius and the author G.A. Henty. All four are attributed to "unknown artist".



PILGRIMAGE PROGRAMME

Saturday 2nd September 2023

11.30AM

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

Preacher: The Reverend Richard Williams

1.30PM

Assemble outside St David's Church for Pilgrimage Walk. Stout footwear is essential and weather-proof clothing recommended.

3.30PM

Evensong at St Mary's Church, Capel-y-Ffin.

Preacher: Fr Matthew Carney OSB, monk of Belmont Abbey & Parish Priest of Abergavenny & Llanarth.

Followed by a Procession to the ruins of Fr Ignatius' Abbey Church with 'stations' at the **Wayside Calvary** and at the **Statue of Our Lady of Llanthony.**

*After the Eucharist pilgrims are invited to a Bring & Share Lunch in the picnic area next to the car park at Llanthony.

CAR PARKING is available for the Evensong at St. Mary's, and for the afternoon programme at Capel-y-Ffin.



At the end of the afternoon service, tea and cakes are served at a modest charge on the Monastery lawn, courtesy of Mr & Mrs Knill.

Please note:

Next year's pilgrimage will take place on Saturday, August 31st, 2024.

[To be confirmed]

**PLEASE SEE WEBSITE
www.fatherignatius.org.uk**

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Unable to travel this year?
THE VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE & SERVICE
prepared to replace the cancelled
2020 Events is on YouTube
at: <https://bit.ly/3eIbPZs>

