

Latest development

WHAT Cardinal Herbert Vaughan would have thought is anyone's guess. It was he, the founder of the Mill Hill Missionaries, who purchased the freehold of St Joseph's College for £5,000 in 1866: 140 years later it was sold for £15.5 million to a property developer. Since then the Grade II-listed north London property, topped by its gold-leafed statue of St Joseph, has been left empty. The society had been encouraged to sell to Matterhorn Capital because the company was planning to turn St Joseph's, which trained thousands of missionaries over the years, into a residential home for the elderly.

Now, however, the plans have changed. Matterhorn has applied to Barnet Council to develop the property into 49 separate residential dwellings. To do this, the plans say that two wings of the former college and the "single cloister" will be demolished. In 2008, Matterhorn received consent to turn St Joseph's into a residential home for the elderly and for a time placed it on the market with an asking price of £25 million. A spokesman for the company now says the building is not for sale.

Fr Anthony Chantry, General Superior of the Mill Hill Missionaries, told us: "We would always be concerned about its future use but we feel that there is enough protection contained within present legislation regarding listed buildings." This, he said, would include the chapel, which is now deconsecrated.

Lost opportunities

FOR MOST Catholics the financial cost of the child-abuse scandal in the Catholic Church is the least troubling consideration when compared to the suffering of victims. Two leading figures involved in child protection in the United States took this view in a presentation at last week's symposium in Rome entitled "The True Cost of the Crisis - Piercings to the Heart of the Church".

Nevertheless, Michael J. Bemis and Patricia Neal, senior figures in the National Catholic Risk Retention Group and with backgrounds in insurance and accountancy respectively, tried to estimate the "out of pocket" cost of the crisis to the Church internationally and came up with a figure well in excess of \$2 billion (£1.3bn).

Bemis and Neal then went on to look at "opportunity cost", defined as the cost of any activity measured in terms of the value of alternative activities that are foregone. Opportunity cost, they say, is money, time and effort forever lost that could have been devoted to building hospitals, seminaries, schools, churches, shelters for abused women and children, soup kitchens and other valuable church projects. They could have financed



charity and outreach programmes and hired urgently needed staff. They conclude: "The sad fact is that there is a huge amount of good that we could be doing now - and for years to come - that we will never do because of the money, time and effort already spent, and continuing to be expended, to address the sexual misconduct crisis."

(See Elena Curti, page 8.)

An island parish

HE WAS part of the team that helped revise emergency procedures for London after the devastating fire at King's Cross Underground station claimed 31 lives in 1987. Now Fr Jim Kennedy, who was formerly parish priest at Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Copenhagen Street, half a mile away from King's Cross, has got to grips with a new challenge - building a hospice in Southern Cyprus.

Fr Kennedy is now assistant priest at St Paul's parish, Paphos, where the island's first hospice is due to open later this year. He was in London last week drumming up funds for the project and meeting the administrators of St Joseph's Hospice in Hackney, learning from their experience of palliative care.

Since moving to Cyprus Fr Kennedy has raised €1.4 million (£1.2m) but needs another €400,000 to complete the project. Pope Benedict blessed a plaque for the 18-bed hospice during his visit to the island last year. Further information is available from <http://www.stpauls-catholic-parish-paphos.com/hospice/>

PIN to pray

A TRADITIONAL devotion is being revived at a parish in Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, thanks to modern technology. Parishioners of St Anthony's Church in the suburb of Edwardstown are to receive a Personal Identification Number or PIN to give them round-the-clock access to a chapel housing the Blessed Sacrament in their newly

renovated church. Named after St Maria Goretti, the chapel will have its own entrance, enabling parishioners - armed with their PIN - an opportunity to spend time before the Host 24/7, even when the main part of the church is closed.

St Anthony's parish administrator, Fr Phillip Alstin, told *The Southern Cross*, a monthly magazine produced by the Archdiocese of Adelaide, that in recent decades many churches had been forced to close their doors in the late afternoon or early evening for security reasons. But the A\$1-million (£686,000) refurbishment, due to be completed this month, would give parishioners an easily accessible, modern church without compromising their personal security or that of parish property. It has been financed by the sale of a parish Mass centre also dedicated to St Maria Goretti three years ago.

Tyburn's rock

FELLOW sisters at London's Tyburn Convent nicknamed Mother Mary Edmund Campion "the Rock of Gibraltar" for her steadfast character and devotion to God. She was 94 and in the sixty-third year of her profession when she died last month.

Born Avarina Mary Bodger into an Anglican family in Wanstead, east London, in September 1918, she served as a Wren in the Royal Navy in the Second World War, during which she was heartbroken by the death of her brother Douglas, a serving British sailor. She converted to Catholicism during the mid-1940s and joined the Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre OSB - the Tyburn Nuns - in 1949 at the novitiate house in Royston, Hertfordshire.

As a novice she took the name Edmund Campion after the Elizabethan Jesuit Tyburn martyr, and made her temporary vows on 11 October 1950 and perpetual vows exactly three years later. During her monastic life, Mother Edmund served as sub-prioress, prioress, novice mistress, secretary general, general councillor and as assistant general.

A recognitio ...

JACK MAHONEY SJ ruffled feathers and generated much comment on the letters pages of *The Tablet* and beyond when he said that the theory of evolution was a profound challenge to Christian doctrine. Now the Emeritus Professor's book, *Christianity in Evolution: an exploration*, has been singled out for praise by the Association of American Publishers. It has been given an "honourable mention" in the Theology and Religious Studies category of the association's annual PROSE Awards competition for professional and scholarly excellence. Congratulations.