

A LARGE stone tithe, barn in Crown Road, Wheatley, is to become a Roman Catholic church. It is being bought for conversion into a chapel of ease, Headington parish..

The barn, part of the old *Rectory* Farm, which was formerly owned by Magdalen College, is believed to be about 250 years old and has been listed for its architectural interest.

For the time being it is only intended to do temporary improvements to the building so that it can be used for Mass on Sunday mornings.

Eventually it will be developed in a Gothic style to harmonise with the Tudor buildings nearby. On a piece of walled garden next to the church there will be a grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes.

The cost of the barn and adjoining buildings—a modernised bungalow and a cartshed which may be turned into a parish social centre—is £5,700.

Father. J. Davenport, parish priest of Headington has appealed for funds, for the new church to mark the silver jubilee of Corpus Christi. Church, Headington. (It is also intended to

mark the jubilee by placing a wood carving of Michelangelo's Pieta in a niche at the Headington church.)

The new Wheatley church will solve a problem which has been worrying Fr. Davenport, for a long time.

Own chapel

“Until last September we had our own chapel in the grounds of the Military Hospital,” he explained. “Since the army left Wheatley we have had to hire premises.”

For several months Mass was said in the Anglican parish hall, also formerly a barn, which is now being demolished for estate development. For the past few weeks a room at the Merry Bells has been used.

About 60 people attend Mass at Wheatley. The new church is expected to seat about 100.