

Irenaeus Newsletter



December '24 & January '25

From the desk



This year seems to have gone by so quickly despite, every now and again, a curved ball deflecting our life and taking us off track but we more or less manage to keep on going and suddenly another year has passed. It reminds me of the wisdom of taking time to discern and pray each day so that we discern God's will for the moment then even the curved balls that are thrown can't really take us off track. So Christmas is coming. Advent is here. Do take time to pray each day even in busy times and can I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and holy Advent and Christmas time from me and everyone at Irenaeus. *Chris*

WHAT'S ON AT A GLANCE

CAROL SERVICE

6:30pm 17th December '24

AGAPE MASS @ IRENAEUS

7pm 9th January & 6th February '25

COME AND SEE DAYS

10:30am - 4pm

11th January '25 Eamonn Mulcahy
& 1st February '25 Dr. Karen Groves

SCRIPTURE MORNINGS

'The upside down Gospel'

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

10:30 - 12 noon 15th, 22nd, 29th January
& 5th February '25

SONGS WE REMEMBER

Wednesday 2pm - 4pm

8th & 22nd January '25

CHARISMATIC DAY OF RENEWAL

10 - 4pm Saturday 15th February 2025

Keynote speaker Ronan Johnson

SILENT RETREAT

'Journey through the Wilderness'

7th - 9th March '25

(limited residential places, book early)

For more information about all our events contact
jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or Tel: 0151 949 1199



CAROLS BY CANDLE LIGHT

With Mike Anderson
and Tongues of Fire



6:30pm 17th December 2024

The Irenaeus Centre
L22 1RD

All welcome



The Irenaeus Project
the glory of God is a person fully alive

www.irenaeus.co.uk

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Moirá's Meanderings



Light in the darkness - it is lovely to watch all the Christmas decorations gradually going up, and this year more than ever, I have come to appreciate our need to try to shine light in the darkness of the world in which we live. In November I led a day for the Mersey care mental health chaplaincy team and we explored how we can be lights in the lives of others. I think the strongest aspect of our discussions was how we can be 'stars of love'.

Our invitation this Christmas I think is how each of us can be a star of love for others around us.

COME AND SEE

10:30 - 4pm

11th January '25

The Wonder of the Word of God

Keynote speaker:

Eamonn Mulcahy CSSp



10:30 - 4pm

1st February 25

**The Wonder of
Death and Dying**

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Karen Groves



Bring a packed lunch

Suggested donation £10

**For more information
email jenny@irenaeus.co.uk
or tel: 0151 949 1199**

WE NEED YOUR HELP AT IRENAEUS

As we expand our ministry and have more visitors, we need more help with Banking, IT support making posters and videos, and general office support.

Contact chris@irenaeus.co.uk

Rolheiser reflects on the effect of Christmas lights in the darkness

Our Christmas lights are, in the end, an expression of faith and in essence a public prayer. Nevertheless, we might still ask, to what end? What difference can this possibly make? Putting up lights as a symbol of faith can seem like a very insignificant and naïve thing to do in the face of the seeming overwhelming darkness of our world. We look at our world and we see millions suffering from the war, millions of refugees on borders around the world, and hundreds of millions suffering from food shortages. As well, when we know that thousands of people every day are dying from domestic violence, drug violence, and gang violence, and when we see tension everywhere within our governments, our churches, our neighbourhoods, and our families, we might ask ourselves, what difference do our little string of lights, or indeed all the Christmas lights in the world, make?

Well, in the words of the late Jesuit Michael Buckley, prayer is most needed, just when it is deemed most useless. These are words to hang onto. Given the magnitude of our world's problems, given the magnitude of the darkness that threatens us, now more than ever, it is imperative that we express our faith publicly, as a prayer. Now, more than ever, we need to show publicly that we still believe faith works, that we still believe in the power of prayer, and that we still believe that, in Christ, the power of darkness has been forever overcome.



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY TRAINING DAYS

18th January & 15th March 2025

**We will be leading a Eucharistic ministry training days at Irenaeus.
Parishes are invited to book places by emailing
jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or Tel: 0151 949 1199**



OUR CHRISTMAS TREES WANT TO TALK TO US.

The greater darkness of December can take its toll and strengthen what afflicts us.

Our Christmas trees beg to differ.

Their branches are full,
leafy, strung with lights.
The brightness is defiant.
We want a perfect world.

But that is not always what we get.
We may experience catastrophic weather;
a pandemic; threatened health;
overstressed work, dipping finances,
struggling relationships, and society and world
either slightly or wildly insane.

Our Christmas trees glow.
Their lights whisper;
“Give all the things that afflict you their due,
but do not give them your soul.
You are more than the surrounding darkness”.

By John Shea



‘The Upside Down Gospel’

Reflections on the Gospel of Luke.

10:30 – 12 noon Wednesdays

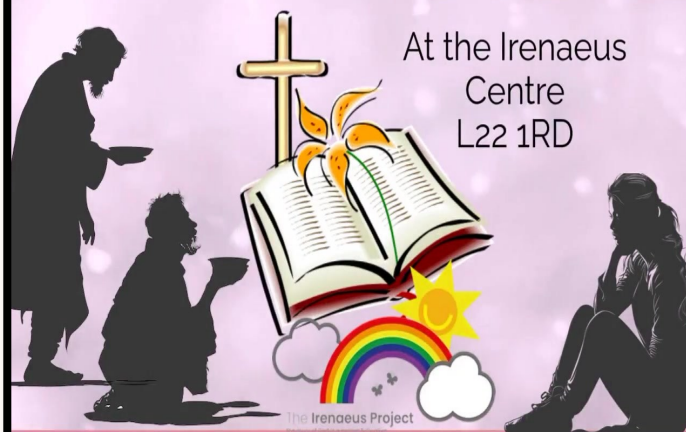
January 15, 2025

January 22, 2025

January 29, 2025

February 5, 2025

ALL WELCOME



At the Irenaeus
Centre
L22 1RD

<https://www.irenaeus.co.uk>

WARM COAT AND BLANKET APPEAL

Thanks you for all your donations of warm coats, many of our visitors have benefited and are very grateful.



CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

Thank you for all your donations to our toy appeal it has made a big difference to many of our families.



SUPPORT FOR THE DIVORCED AND SEPARATED

The Restored Lives course is run over six weeks, one evening per week. The talks cover the key issues to help you to move on and highlight the practical steps and tools to enable you to tackle the issues that arise from separation and divorce.

For more information contact Maureen (0767753371)



The Irenaeus Centre and St Thomas' Oratory



WARM AND COSY!
CALL IN FOR A CUPPA AND A CHAT
KEEP WARM AND ENJOY THE COMPANY
We are open 10am - 4pm Monday - Thursday

Join us for Mass 12 Noon every Wednesday

OTHER ACTIVITIES

ART AND MEDITATION
Thursdays 2-4pm

KNIT AND NATTER
Tuesday 10.30 - 12 noon

SCRIPTURE SHARING
Tuesdays 12 Noon

TAI CHI
Tuesdays 1pm - 2pm

PRAYER FOR HEALING
Mondays 2pm - 3pm

COUNSELLING
Wednesdays 10am - 2pm

'SONGS WE REMEMBER'
SING-A-LONG
2pm, 2nd and 4th
Wednesday of the month
(Dementia friendly)

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT
Thursdays 1:15pm - 2pm

