

Irenaeus Newsletter



December 2023 & January 2024 *From the desk*



Here we are in the middle of the Advent/Christmas season, about to start a new year. It's a time that always fills me with new hope. It makes me ask questions like 'What will this year bring?' 'Where will I meet God?' 'What will the encounter be like?' Will it cause me to grow?

Jesus has shown us the heart of God, compassion, mercy, love flowing out towards us, made flesh in the body of Jesus so that we can look and say 'that's who you are, you are the God who transforms the messiness of human life through the power of love.' All it takes is that we trust and believe in it and we will see and encounter it everywhere.

Sadly, we think life's about what we do and how good we are. In reality, it's all about the goodness of God and not about our pathetic attempts to be worthy. The twelve step processes understand it. It is faith in God that makes real God's saving power in our lives. The challenge is never to wait until you've got it all together before you let God in but simply to know that, in your mess and with your mess, God can do anything. That's what I experience in Advent and what I hope will be revealed in the New Year. *Chris*

WHATS ON AT A GLANCE

COME & SEE DAYS

10:30am - 4pm 13th January & 3rd February 2024

SCHOOL OF PRAYER

3pm - 4pm Tuesdays 9th, 16th & 23rd January 2024

CRAFT WORKSHOPS

1pm 5th February & 4th March 2024
(booking essential)

AGAPE MASS

7pm 4th January & 1st February 2024

SCRIPTURE MORNINGS

10:30am 12noon
8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th February 2024

WALKING THE WAY OF THE PASSION

27th March - 31st March 2024
(more information next month)

HERITAGE WEEK

5th - 8th February 2024

For more information about all our events contact
jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or Tel: 01519391199

A SCHOOL OF PRAYER



Illustration by Elizabeth Wang. 'In his life on earth Jesus prayed in thanksgiving and praise' T-01503-OL copyright © Radiant Light, www.radiantlight.org.uk

An exploration of prayer

At the Irenaeus Centre
Tuesdays 3pm – 4pm
9th, 16th & 23rd January 2024



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

www.irenaeus.co.uk

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Moira's Meanderings



So many of us greet each other with 'Happy Christmas' and yet for many it is far from happy. Christmas can be a time that brings painful memories of lost loved ones, especially for those who experience their first Christmas alone.

For me Christmas is a time, as I have often mentioned before, to recognise God in the mess of our world a time to recognise the needs of others. I think that's why I like the carol, Good king Wenceslas *'Therefore, Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing, Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.'*

Have a blessed and peace filled Christmas and may the new year bring all that you long for.

COME AND SEE

13th January 2024

10:30am - 4pm

The Power of the Sacraments

Led by Fr. Jim McManus



3rd February 2024

10:30am - 4pm

The Power of Art

**Led by
Christine Dodd**

Bring a packed lunch

For more information contact

jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

or tel: 0151 949 1199



Where is this God revealing God's self? Certainly not in the "safe" world, but at the edge, at the bottom, among those people and places where we don't want to find God, where we don't look for God, where we don't expect God. The way we've shaped Christianity, one would think it was all about being nice and middle class and "normal" and under the law. In the Gospels, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are none of those things, so they might just be telling us we should be looking elsewhere for our status and dignity. Maybe the reason that our knowledge of God is so limited is because we've been looking for God in places we consider nice and pretty. Instead, God chooses the ordinary and messy.

Richard Rohr



CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

A big thank you for all the Christmas toys that have been donated.

If you know anyone that would benefit from what has been donated contact us at

jenny@irenaeus.co.uk



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
07967753371**





'Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace'

Pope Francis

Joan Chittister shares her thoughts about Christmas



Christmas is the celebration of small things, particular things, barely noticeable things. It is Jesus in a manger—an animal byre—the child who will grow into the voice of God that is heard around the world.

It's so easy to get caught up in the magnificence of Jesus and so miss the simplicity of Jesus, the normalcy of Jesus, the invisibility of the Jesus who lives almost totally unseen, unheralded, for the first 30 years of his life. Just like us.

The implications of that reality, especially at a time like Christmas with all the gifts and glitter, all the great Christmas icons and triumphant hymns—cue trumpet, hit flashing lights, turn spotlight on angels—turn real life upside down. There weren't any trumpets, the night was quiet and dark as pitch, no heavenly choir sang. It was a moment of crisis, of abandonment, of loss, of total dependence for this little family. They knew too much of what the families of the world know yet, in fact.

This was a refugee family. They were homeless. In a highly communal society their survival depended on the hospitality and support of strangers. That's the real story. Where has it been for so long?



Maybe we've never wanted to face the implications of this birth, its social status, its neediness.

Maybe it has been so well-masked that we have never realized the demands it makes on us. It has implications for now, for the world we're in where we ourselves are turning refugees away.

Those were the days...

**Join us for our heritage week.
Sharing the stories and history of the church
and the Waterloo area.**



5th - 8th February 2024

**'For it is good to be children sometimes
and never better than at Christmas
when its mighty founder was a child
himself.'**

Charles Dickens



'AND WE'RE OFF!'

A look at Mark's Gospel

At the Irenaeus Centre

32 Great Georges Rd. L22 1RD

10.30am - 12 noon

8th; 15th; 22nd and 29th February 2024

(zoom links also available)

For further information contact
jenny@ireaneus.co.uk

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
10.30 - 12 noon Tuesday

GODLY PLAY
Creative time of prayer
12 Noon Tuesday

MOVEMENT TO HEAL & TAI CHI
alternate on Tuesdays
1:15pm - 2pm

PRAYER FOR HEALING
Mondays 2pm - 3pm

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

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT
Thursdays 1:15pm 2pm

