

The Glory of God is a person fully alive

**IRENAEUS
NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2021**

From the desk,

In November I'm always drawn to a memory of the walls of Los Angeles Cathedral which illustrate the communion of Saints. When I first visited there I couldn't believe what I saw. The walls are filled with those we know and those we don't know all making their way towards the altar, symbolising the heavenly banquet. It really is breath taking but particularly poignant this year when I think of Brendan who worked here for so many years taking his place amongst those who have gone before us. It reminds me that we have no need to be afraid as we journey because God's love and God's goodness are enough. If we can help you on the journey, please don't hesitate to contact us.



Chris

The Communion of Saints.

Deep time, or the communion of saints professed in Christian creeds, means that our goodness is not just our own, nor is our badness just our own. We are intrinsically social animals. We carry the lived and the un-lived (and unhealed) lives of our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents as far back as DNA and genomes can trace them which is pretty far back. It does take a village to create a person. We are the very first generation to know that this is literally and genetically true. There is deep healing and understanding when we honour the full cycle of life. No wonder so many are intrigued today by genealogy searches and ancestry test kits. Many cry and laugh at their newly discovered place in a long family tree about which they knew little.

Living in the communion of saints means that we can take ourselves very seriously (we are part of a Great Whole) and not take ourselves too seriously at all (we are just a part of the Great Whole) at the very same time. I hope this frees us from any unnecessary individual guilt and, more importantly, frees us to be full "partners in God's triumphant parade" through time and history (2 Corinthians 2:14). We are in on the deal and, yes, the really Big Deal. We are all a very small part of a very Big Thing! We are little happy and content fish in a huge and limitless ocean.

Richard Rohr



Zoom Scripture Mornings

led by Fr Chris Thomas

**'HE SENT ME
TO GIVE GOOD NEWS
TO THE POOR'**



**Reflections on
Luke's Gospel**

Thursdays

4th; 11th; 18th November 2021

10.30 am - 12 noon

**To book a place contact
jenny@irenaeus.co.uk**

No charge - donations welcome

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Moira's Meanderings,

'We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who have gone before us' is one of my favourite songs. Its taken from what was thought to be the writings of a 12th Century theologian and author John of Salisbury and then later quoted by Isaac Newton. At this time of year, when I am reflecting on all the people who have gone before us, recognised named saints and those saints only known by us, I often think of the idea of standing on their shoulders. Not only does it give us a firm foundation but it also means that we can see more clearly the way ahead. May be at this time we can think of those who have brought us to where we are today, what have we learnt from them, and how it will change the way that we live our lives in the future?

PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD!

**An Advent day of reflection
Led by Sr.Moira Meeghan**

**Saturday 11th December 2021
10am - 4pm**

**At The Irenaeus Centre
32 Great Georges Rd.
L22 1RD**

Suggested donation £10 (includes lunch) spaces limited,
for further information contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS

by Joyce Johnson Rouse

I am standing on the shoulders
of the ones who came before me.
I am stronger for their courage,
I am wiser for their words.
I am lifted by their longing
for a fair and brighter future.
I am grateful for their vision,
for their toiling on this Earth.



We are standing on the shoulders
of the ones who came before us,
they are saints and they are humans,
they are angels, they are friends.
We can see beyond the struggles
and the troubles and the challenge
when we know that by our efforts
things will be better in the end.

They lift me higher than I could ever fly
Carrying my burdens away.
I imagine our world if they hadn't tried,
we wouldn't be here celebrating today.

**Date for your diary
Christmas
Carol Service
(On line)
16th December 2021
7pm - 8:30pm**



To receive a link, email
Jenny@irenaeus.co.uk



EMMAUS FAMILY OF PRAYER
A Celebration of the Eucharist
7pm 4th November 2021
at The Irenaeus Centre
Great Georges Rd,
Liverpool L22 1RD.

All welcome!



In the grounds of the Irenaeus spirituality and outreach centre, there is a place to sit and be.

We all need somewhere quiet to reflect and maybe pray, this space is open to all at any time of day. There are benches to sit on and just be present to God and to yourself.

Why not come along and spend some time in our outdoor prayer space and maybe reflect on. You are invited to tie a prayer to the ivy on the wall.

Invite the Holy Spirit to work powerfully in your life.



**THE IRENAEUS CENTRE
WITH ST. THOMAS' ORATORY**

**We still need your financial help
ALL DONATIONS WELCOME!**



Many of you will be aware that we have been given the use of St. Thomas's church in Waterloo and that we are developing it into a spirituality and outreach centre .

We will retain the sanctuary area as a space for prayer and reflection. This area will have bi-folding doors at the back so that it can be opened up.

The central part of the Church is to be converted into a room that can seat 120 people, with bi-folding doors to create two smaller rooms, and when the whole area is opened up it will seat 200 people.



The current porch will become a reception area to welcome people. The back of the church will house the bookshop with the current side aisles being coffee points for those who drop in or who come for the various groups.

The hall will be multi-purpose and used for the food bank, as a larger dining area for groups and for meetings of up to 45 people.

