

Irenaeus newsletter

July 2022

From the desk ...



As many of you know my good friend Dermott Donnelly died very suddenly last week. His brother is Dec of the famous 'Ant and Dec' partnership. Dermott was 55 and his sudden death has made me very sad but more than that it has led me into a deeply reflective mood as I've asked myself what do I believe about death and resurrection? Do I believe that God can be trusted? In the ordinariness of our lives can I believe that God is on our side and that therefore nothing can overcome us not even death? I think my conclusion is that the resurrection is the sign to all of us that God is more for us than we are for ourselves. It doesn't take the sadness away but it fills me with hope that death is not the end. If you're struggling with faith then maybe we can help you on your journey so don't be afraid to get in touch *Chris*

WOMEN'S WEEKEND 'THE CALL OF CREATION'

16th – 18th September 2022
Irenaeus Centre
32 Great George's Rd.
L22 1RD

Residential places available
For more information contact
jenny@irenaeus.co.uk
Or Tel 0151 9491199

WHATS ON AT A GLANCE

Agape Mass

7pm on 4th August at the Irenaeus Centre

Women's Weekend 'The Call of Creation'

16th - 18th September at the Irenaeus Centre

Come and See Days

8th October '22	4th March '23
5th November '22	1st April '23
3rd December '22	6th May '23
7th January '23	3rd June '23
4th February '23	8th July '23

We plan to be open of the Irenaeus Centre in
September 2022.

There will be a variety of activities,
More information to follow

irenaeus.co.uk

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



Moira's meanderings

As Chris has reflected on, we have been faced with the vulnerability of our life on earth and the challenge of death and resurrection.

I know for me we go through life as if we are invincible but when someone we know dies it pulls us up short. It is important that we live the life that we have to its fullest.



Winston Churchill said,

' We make a living by what we get;
we make a life by what we give.'

And Albert Einstein said,

'There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.'

These statements leave me wondering about how I live my life.

COME AND SEE

Join us for one of our 'Come and See days'
Time to share and reflect with excellent speakers.

Our first day is

8th October 2022

Led by

Fr. Eamonn Mulcahy CSSP

BOOK NOW

with jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

or telephone 0151 949 1199



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY TRAINING DAYS

12th October 2022

18th February 2023

20th May 2023

We will be leading 3 Eucharistic ministry training days at Irenaeus.

Parishes are invited to book places by emailing jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

We are also happy to come along to your parish or a group of parishes if there are large numbers .



“The question of death is the question of life, and keeping the question of death open, perhaps, is the greatest human responsibility so as to keep the question of life open...But the oblivion of death is also its beginning, and also, a culture that forgets death begins to die within. He who forgets death has already begun to die.”

Pope Francis



Richard Rohr when reflecting on life and death said,

I believe the Christian faith is saying that *the pattern of transformation is always death transformed, not death avoided*. The universal spiritual pattern is *death and resurrection, or loss and renewal*, if you prefer. That is always a disappointment to humans, because we want one without the other—transformation without cost or surrender.

We ordinarily learn to submit and surrender to this scary pattern only when reality demands it of us, as it is doing now. Christians are helped by the fact that Jesus literally submitted to it and came out more than okay. Jesus is our guide, the “pioneer and perfecter of our faith,” as the Letter to the Hebrews puts it (12:2).

Each time we surrender, each time we trust the dying, we are led to a deeper level. We are grounded for a while, like an electric wire, so there is less resistance and more available energy to trust it the next time. Yet it is still invariably a leap of faith, a walk through some degree of darkness.



There is something essential that we only know by dying. We really don't know what life is until we know what death is. Divine Life is so big, so deep, and so indestructible, that it is able to include death.

A GIFT OF LIFE AND DEATH

I want my death to be a gift, a birth.
When in that final breath
I breathe myself back into God
I want to be drawn into you also
Into the world of stars and earth
Oceans and birds and animals,
Into the roaring sea.
I want to be
an intimate part of all the universe.

And so as I am breathed
back into the heart of this world
Into the hopes and dreams
And joys of the people,
Into the yearnings and the tears
and sorrows of this world,
My death will be a birth, a gift.

I want my death to be a gift
And the only way my death can be a gift, is
If my living is a gift
Right now, today
In this frantic, confusing,
Lovely messy moment in history.

Oh just to be here visible and unhidden,
alive with a hope that has no boundaries ,
ever aware of the immense goodness,
At my fingertips, within my reach,
Receiving and sharing that goodness
Midwiving it into being,
Tasting the incredible truth,
that every day is good day for living
And every day is a good day for dying
And I want my life to be a gift
so that my death can be a gift

(Excerpted from *Gold in your Memories*
by Macrina Wiederkehr)





The Irenaeus Centre and St Thomas' Oratory

Opening in September with many different activities.

Wednesdays Dementia support and activities.

Art and reflection.

Book shop and cards

Drop in for a coffee or tea.

Time for a chat.

(More information to follow)



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