

SAINT IRENAEUS

(Bishop and Martyr)
28 June



About Saint Irenaeus (130-202)

Irenaeus was born in Smyrna, in Asia Minor (now Izmir in Turkey) and emigrated to Lyons, in France, where he eventually became the bishop. He played a decisive role in fixing the canon of the New Testament.

During his life he opposed the Gnostics and the Valentinians who both claimed to have secret knowledge which they would not share with others.

Before Irenaeus, the Canon of the New Testament was not fixed. He went through all the books of the New Testament and other writings which could be included. He gave reasons for and against accepting each of these writings as part of the New Testament. In doing so he started the tradition of Biblical Scholarship.

It is not known for certain whether he was martyred or died a natural death.

Bibliography

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What can we learn from Saint Irenaeus?

Saint Irenaeus was deeply committed to the Word of God and began the tradition of biblical scholarship. His work made it easier for people to know what was true about the teachings of the Church and to combat heresies.

We too, must grow in our love and knowledge of the Scriptures so that we may know Jesus better, grow closer to God and be informed enough to oppose falsehood.

Knowing the Scriptures, we must put them into practice in our daily lives.

Prayer Resources

COLLECT

O God, who called the Bishop Saint Irenaeus
to confirm true doctrine and the peace of the Church,
grant, we pray, through his intercession,
that, being renewed in faith and charity,
we may always be intent on fostering unity and concord.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

GOSPEL

John 17:20-26

I want those you have given me to be with me where I am.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:
'Holy Father,
I pray not only for these,
but for those also
who through their words will believe in me.
May they all be one.
Father, may they be one in us,
as you are in me and I am in you,
so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.
I have given them the glory you gave to me,
that they may be one as we are one.
With me in them and you in me,
may they be so completely one
that the world will realise that it was you who sent me
and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.
Father, I want those you have given me
to be with me where I am,
so that they may always see the glory you have given me
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
Father, Righteous One,
the world has not known you,
but I have known you,
and these have known that you have sent me.
I have made your name known to them
and will continue to make it known,
so that the love with which you loved me may be in them,
and so that I may be in them.'

Communion Antiphon

Jn 15:4-5

Remain in me, as I remain in you, says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty.

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A Hymn for the Memorial of Saint Irenaeus (Revised)

1. Saint Irenaeus you were called
by God to be a shepherd true
to Christian people in Lyons
the faith in them you would renew.

2. In search of God's most holy Word
you studied writings old and new.
The books of the New Testament
by you were declared to be true.

3. Saint Irenaeus you condemned
the secrets of the gnostic tribe,
declaring them as heretics.
Only to truth would you subscribe.

4. O God, in you the truth is found,
may your Word each day be our guide:
that we may live in charity,
the Holy Spirit at our side.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono
Tune: WINCHESTER NEW LM 88.88

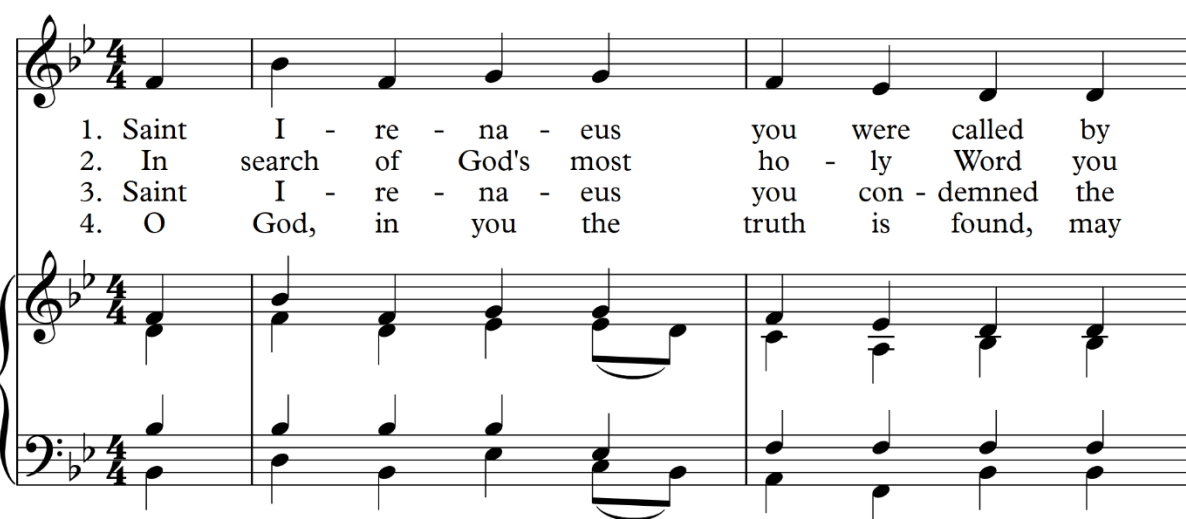
Saint Irenaeus

(28 June)

Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

WINCHESTER NEW LM 88.88

Voice



1. Saint I - re - na - eus you were called by
2. In search of God's most ho - ly Word you
3. Saint I - re - na - eus you con - demned the
4. O God, in you the truth is found, may

Organ

Voice



3
1. God to be a shep - herd true to
2. stud - ied writ - ings old and new. The
3. sec - rets of the gnos - tic tribe, de -
4. your Word each day be our guide: that

Org.

5

Voice

1. Chris - tian peo - ple in Ly - ons the
2. books of the New Tes - ta - ment by
3. clar - ing them as her - e - tics. On -
4. we may live in char - i - ty, the

Org.

7

Voice

1. faith in them you would re - new.
2. you were de - clared to be true.
3. ly to truth would you sub - scribe.
4. Ho - ly Spi - rit at our side.

Org.