

Let us break bread...

(So Tell Everyone) This is a song I meant to use last week, in connection with the two festivals, of Corpus Christi (which I talked about last Monday) and of the Sacred Heart which was on Friday: only, for the month of June I've not been talking to you on Thursday middays. The connection, through that song, is that the singers are the Sacred Heart Choir, of Southend, England. But they can link, too, with today's feast-day which is that of St Irenaeus. And who was he? Well, his name suggests peace and concord and unity: and he was one of the earliest Christian writers and thinkers, and an important witness to the development of Christianity in its first 100 years. Actually, not much is known about him except his important writings: he seems to have been born <sup>in Syria</sup> in what we now call the Middle East, <sup>in 177 he was a priest working in Lyons</sup> and died as Bishop of Lyons in southern France <sup>and he died there, as Bishop</sup> around the year 200. One phrase of his has become quite popular and often-quoted in recent years: 'The glory of God is man fully alive'. I want to read for you, later today, from the passage of his in which that idea is expressed and developed. Irenaeus is, in fact, quite quotable: another one I like is what he said of the teachings of his old friend and master, Bishop Polycarp — that he treasured them 'not on paper but in my heart, for the things we learn in childhood are part of our soul'. He was concerned for human things, and had a vision of life and its meaning from which we could still learn much today. For life is under such threats

But first, who

and pressures, from before birth till death. Irenaeus was also passionately concerned about truth, about a meaningful and human understanding of Christian life and faith. But before I read for you from S. Irenaeus, let us listen to a song in music for today. (Take this heart, and fill it with gladness.) "The Earth is filled."

[Beyond...]  
A.M. 150  
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MUSIC PRAYERS

Brev. 28 JON: Irenaeus contra Haereticos