



EURO info



To be more closely united, work more creatively, and act in greater solidarity we form one province beyond national limitations...

SPIRIT IN THE CITY (SITC) FESTIVAL, 31 MAY-1 JUNE 'LIFE TO THE FULL'-NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE, LONDON

This faith-festival takes place in the heart of London's entertainment district, the West End. The Marist community is responsible for the church of Notre Dame de France (NDF) located at the centre of this lively quarter (www.ndfchurch.org/en/spirit-in-the-city). From there, it runs evangelisation activities in the course of the year and *Spirit in the City* is one of these.



Allegra Mutanda, the evangelisation co-ordinator at NDF writes: "Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life and have it to the full' (cf. John 10: 10). SitC has been running since 2006 and after a gap of a year, we are back (www.spiritinthecity.org). This is an evangelisation outreach event with a simple aim: to share God's love with those we meet through a joyful and dynamic celebration and witness of Catholic Christian Faith.



One of the characteristics of this faith-festival is the large team of joy-filled and enthusiastic Christians of all cultures and nations, lay and religious, old and young, from across several dioceses, who come together for these two days and impact the West End with the joy of the Gospel we share. The programme combines elements of prayer, faith formation and evangelisation activities. The opening event took place inside the church and included a talk, worship, prayer, and outreach on the streets.



The following day, we took the Church OUT to the local public space, Leicester Square. Activities included: a programme of live-music on stage; a Feet-Washing station; Food outreach to the poor; Street Evangelisation; Celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation; Faith-Talks; and prayer in the form of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Life to the Full? Indeed, it was!"



Link to full text in English www.bit.ly/SitC2019



GREETINGS FROM PARIS!

Pope Francis reminds communities of faith in the Church about their responsibility to continue Christ's mission of spreading the Joy of the Gospel by reaching out the peripheries of society.

We hear of two examples of such activities.

We thank those who shared their stories with the whole province this month.

Francisco Chauvet and Martin McAnaney

THE MARIST COMMUNITY AND THE BIBLE TOWER IN DESSAU-WÖRLITZ

In 1992, the German Marists established a community in the former East Germany, in Dessau. They have been serving the Diocese of Magdeburg in various ways including looking after a parish and supplying in other parishes.

This region is considered a missionary area where Christian belief and practice remain very rare. The city, with a population of around 78,000 is perhaps best known today by students of design and architecture who come to admire the unique buildings of the *Bauhaus* tradition.

Also in the region is the “*Gartenreich Wörlitz*” (Garden Realm or the English Garden), Dessau-Wörlitz, which has been a world heritage site for many years. It is a beautifully designed landscape, with lakes, parklands, statues, bridges, combined with ornately decorated buildings containing temporary and permanent exhibitions.

The highest elevation point in the Garden Realm is the 66m-high steeple of the St Peter’s Protestant Church, Wörlitz.



In 1994, this steeple was developed as an ecumenical evangelisation project - temporary Bible exhibitions laid out in the tower’s three floors, and is known as the “Bibelturm” (Bible Tower).

The current exhibition, “Celebrating Feasts”, is dedicated to the liturgical year and its feast days. The Marist confrere Alfons Averbeck (De) spends about 50 days a year at the tower being available to the many visitors from all over Europe.

On some days, there are over 200 visitors. Alfons writes: “I do not know any other place or project in the whole diocese, where you can speak so wonderfully about religious themes to more people – believers, “seekers” and also many atheists from different walks of life.”



PRAYER INTENTION

Loving Father, You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son, that we might believe in him and have life and have it to the full (Jn. 10:10). May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day and live the Good News with joy. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, give us the courage to witness to the Joy of the Gospel by our words and actions. Amen.

