

Visitors to the Centre



Maria of Colombia spent an afternoon with us and brought an amazing raspberry and strawberry French tart to share. Maria is a Spanish teacher who used to work at the St. Joseph School in Le Puy. Last year when she was a substitute teacher there, she stayed at the Centre until she found her own apartment in town. She now teaches Spanish at a school in a town 30 minutes from Le Puy.



The Institute of the Sisters of St. Joseph (France) brought health care leaders of their senior citizens' residences to the Centre for a day-long meeting and a meal of spaghetti and meatballs. Sr. Monique Vallon, president of the Institute (third from left) was present as well.

Lock-Down in France

On Friday, October 30, France reluctantly went back into lock-down due to the coronavirus. For two weeks the government put a curfew on various hot spots of the country without a positive effect. The daily new case rate reached 4,000 and has steadily increased since May's lowest rates of 100 cases per day. As of October 31, about 36,000+ people have died of coronavirus and over 1 million people have tested positive. During the spring, France was on lock-down from March 19 until May 11. Schools remain open as well as food stores, pharmacies, news and bookstores, gas stations, etc. However, bars, restaurants, and cafés are closed. The lock-down is slated to end on December 1, in time for the holiday season. Government officials will assess the nation's progress every 15 days in the hopes of re-opening sooner.

Check out our new website: <https://www.centreinternationalsj.org>

Day Trippers

Before and after the spring lock-down, the French countryside beckoned us to venture from the Centre to make several day trips. As we followed the smooth and beautiful two-lane highways, we became more acquainted with many of the small towns that surround Le Puy. Fortunately, we are located geographically in the Massif Central, which features mountains and plateaus and provide some gorgeous sights.



Sheep near Chilhac



Picnic lunch in Paulhauguet



Wheatfield near Langeac



Chalk hills in Rosières



Lavadieu—medieval town



Château of Marquis LaFayette in Chavaniac



Beast of Gévaudan museum in Saugues



National Cheeseburger Day in Bouzol with a view of the Loire River valley



Advent Resources from Australia - «Comfort My People»

The Advent cry from the Prophet Isaiah holds new meaning for our times and greater urgency because of the global COVID-19 pandemic. In the face of such extreme suffering and heartache as a result of COVID-19, as well as the economic, political, social unrest and uncertainty across our world, together with the devastating impact of climate change on our planet and our lives, we hope and pray these video and music resources will comfort you and your communities in your waiting, hoping and longing. <https://www.emmausproductions.com/special-feature/advent-pandemic-2020/>