



Joe Georgekutty, from our Parish, went to Lisbon for World Youth Day 2023.

Here he shares a few thoughts on his experience...



For those of you that don't know, between the 1st and 6th of August, young Catholics from all over the world gathered together in Lisbon for World Youth Day; I went along with my siblings.

I wasn't sure what to expect as none of us had ever been to one - but it was amazing!

It was really cool to see people from every country in the world bar Maldives come together having fun singing, dancing and praying in the name of God.



They had different things going on throughout each day that you could attend, with groups from all over the world running events. We took in some French reggae, went to talks on Mariology, went to the park of reconciliation where 100s of people were confessing in different languages in different booths, attended smaller Masses and gathered in huge numbers to take part in the way of the cross, adoration and Mass led by the Pope. For the vigil

around 1.5 million were gathered in a field, I have never seen so many people in my life at the same place.



We also had enough time to explore Lisbon, had a day trip to Fatima, have some amazing food, enjoy time together as siblings and bump into friends at events.

For me it was a fun spiritual adventure - and for those who think this isn't for you, I'd highly recommend rethinking and going with a few friends or family. Even though it's called WYD there's no strict age limit so anyone can really go and enjoy the week.

Next one is in South Korea in 2027 so please have a look at what WYD was like in Lisbon and come along for WYD 2027.

Joe, August 2023.

