



MAPEERA AND UGANDA MARTYRS PAN-EUROPE PILGRIMAGE STARTS AT DURY

A Pan-Europe Pilgrimage which is for, among other objectives, honouring Fr. Simeon Lourdel Mapeera and his Four Missionary Companions, for celebrating the Martyrs of Uganda and for praying for the beatification and canonisation of Fr. Mapeera and Brother Amans in Europe, was recently initiated at Dury in France, the Birth Place of Fr. Mapeera. The Pan-Europe Pilgrimage started on Friday 23rd June 2017 and ended on Sunday 25th June 2017. It is specifically known as Mapeera Lourdel and Uganda Martyrs Dury Pilgrimage. Preferably, it will be held twice a year, in February and June. It is organised by a Pan-European group known as Mapeera Lourdel & Uganda Martyrs Dury Pilgrims Europe (MUMADUPE).

Six lay pilgrims from the UK, two priests from the Missionaries of Africa, Members of Lourdel Family from the neighbourhood of Dury, people of Dury village and Parishioners of the Church of Dury participated in the Mapeera Lourdel And Uganda Martyrs Dury Pilgrimage 2017. The Pilgrims from the UK and from Paris travelled on Friday 23 June 2017 to Arras and stayed in the La Maison Saint Vaast. La Maison Saint Vaast was a Major Seminary which Fr. Lourdel attended before joining the Missionaries of Africa. MUMADUPE decided to make it, together with Arras Cathedral, one of its Pilgrimage Sites in Arras. Pilgrims from Paris and from the UK included Fathers: Bernard Lefebvre and Jacques Amyot d'Inville, Mssrs: Ricardo Mulinda, Noel Mbala, John Kyaluzi, Robert Matovu, Rogers Kyeyune and Deo Ntuwa.

On Saturday 24 June 2017, the Pilgrims from the UK and from Paris were warmly received at the historical village of Dury, the Birth Place of Fr. Lourdel and the Main Place of the Pilgrimage, by the Mayor of Dury with the members of his Council, by the members of the Lourdel Family and by the Parishioners of Dury Church. A lunch signifying the Pilgrims-Dury Brotherly Relationship was provided by the Mayor. Thereafter, the Pilgrims visited the historical Lourdel Family House, the Grave of the Lourdel Family, the primary school which Fr. Lourdel attended and the most important Place of the Pilgrimage - St. Martin's Church of Dury, in which Fr. Lourdel was baptised.

It was a great moment for the Pilgrims to meet and fraternise with the family members of Fr. Lourdel and with the people of Dury; and it was amazing to see the former house of Lourdel Family. It was fascinating to see the preserved Dury Church baptismal font in which Fr. Lourdel was baptised. It was so great to find an altar in the Church of Dury with framed Pictures of Fr. Lourdel and of the Martyrs of Uganda. Before Mass, Dury parishioners wonderfully presented on a screen the journey and missionary work of Fr. Lourdel. At 4 pm, the Pilgrims with the Parishioners of Dury Church celebrated Mapeera Europe Mass in his honour and in honour of his Confreres, prayed for his beatification and for that of Brother Amans. The Mass was presided over by Fr. Bernard Lefebvre and concelebrated by Fr. Jacques. MUMADUPE declared at Dury its Mission of making Pan-Europe Mapeera And Uganda Martyrs Dury Pilgrimages at least twice a year. The First Weekend of June 2018 was confirmed as the date for the Mapeera And Uganda Martyrs Dury Pilgrimage Europe 2018.

On Sunday 25 June 2017, the Pilgrimage Acts in France were concluded by celebrating Holy Mass in Arras Notre Dame et Saint Vaast Cathedral, in honour of Mapeera, his Companions and the Martyrs of Uganda.

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