



## An Invitation to Manchester 15 - 18 May 2008 *... giving you a flavour of our fine city*

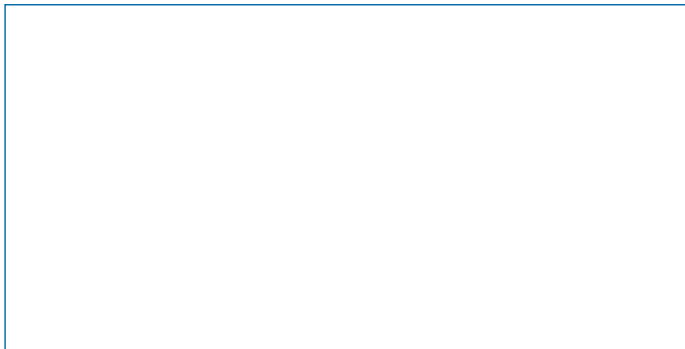
**A** City recognized amongst Britain's greatest, Manchester has reinvented itself as a truly contemporary metropolis, with modern landmark buildings, a brilliant art and culture scene, and renown for its world-class hospitality. This is a city with every experience imaginable, from fine dining and top class theatre, to major sporting events and year-round festivals.

As the Gateway to England's North Country, the city is also just a short trip from some of the World's most beautiful countryside and historic towns. The Lake District, the Peak District, the Yorkshire Dales and Snowdonia are all easy day trips from the city.

With a history as rich and diverse as Manchester's, you'll find world-class museums, galleries and attractions, that all serve as home to Manchester's past, present and future.

The Museum of Science and Industry, for example, is built on the site of the world's oldest passenger railway station and now occupies a 5-acre site. To contrast this, visit Urbis, the shimmering example of modern architecture; and a 15 minutes tram ride will take you to Manchester's magnificent waterfront destination, The Quays, where modern day architectural wonders vie for your attention on both sides of Manchester Ship Canal.

The Lowry is home to the largest collection by LS Lowry, with a year round exhibition programme, two theatres and a restaurant; the Imperial War Museum North provides a unique space with the most breathtaking audiovisual display of the impact of war.



### **The Lowry**

Whilst it doesn't cost a penny to wander through the streets of Manchester, you may struggle to resist the temptations of the vibrant shopping culture in the city. You'll find exclusive up to the minute labels, designer boutiques and high street fashion nestling neatly together.

Shopping areas on your list should include Market Street and the Manchester Arndale, officially the busiest shopping centre outside London and considered by many a 'haven' with big name brands and department stores on every corner.

If you are looking for designer style, make your way over to King Street and St Ann's Square. Or for something a little more cosmopolitan, head over to Exchange Square and The Triangle, where cool designer outlets combine with the retail giants Harvey Nichols and Selfridges.

Manchester is also home to The Trafford Centre, located approximately four miles from the city centre. Here you will find all your favourite high street names alongside varied leisure and dining choices.

If the theatre is your passion, you're in luck. Manchester can rightly claim the title of the 'West End of the North' with its 13



### **Bridgewater Hall**

theatres covering a wide range of genres, including the Palace Theatre on Oxford Street or The Opera House on Quay Street.

Alternative venues include the stunning Royal Exchange, a modern theatre within the historic splendour of the Victorian Cotton Exchange building, the Library Theatre, beneath Manchester's Central Library and the Bridgewater Hall, home to the BBC Philharmonic and the world famous Halle orchestra.

The Manchester Evening News Arena is the largest indoor arena in Europe, while on the other side of the city, the Lowry Theatre hosts a diverse programme of everything from ballet and comedy to Shakespeare and children's productions.

Manchester not only offers first-rate entertainment, but also boasts over 700 restaurants providing over 30 cuisines throughout the city. First class chefs, fresh local produce and great service combine to make eating out in Manchester an experience in itself, including Stock, The Restaurant Bar and Grill and The River Restaurant, within the fabulous 5-star Lowry Hotel.

For a more laid back feel why not try heading over to the Castlefield or Deansgate Locks. Choose from Choice, Dukes 92 or the curiously named Albert's Shed. Nearer the city centre are Mr Thomas' and Sam's Chop Houses, serving the best of classic British cuisine. Manchester is everything you've heard about and so much more.

Manchester has a great Catholic tradition and in, or close to, the city centre you will find several beautiful churches which you may find it possible to visit during the Centenary Conference. An article on them will appear in a future issue of Catena.

***The Manchester Provinces 1 and 17 look forward to welcoming you to our city for the Centenary Conference in May 2008.***



**Canal side**