

Light a candle

Speak to a priest

Listen to music

Offer a personal prayer intention

Ask questions about God

Receive a word of scripture

Reflect in peace

Encounter the Lord



## NIGHTFEVER

*"Be still and know that I am God." (Ps 45:11)*

### FACTSHEET FOR PRIESTS & COORDINATORS

Version: February 2013

#### What is Nightfever?

Nightfever is simple. It involves the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in a church while volunteers outside invite people to come in and light a candle. A Nightfever is underpinned by a group of people interceding for the mission. Priests, religious and lay are on hand to hear confessions or engage in conversation. For many visitors this will be their first time in a Catholic church.



The Nightfever initiative is a fruit of World Youth Day 2005 in Cologne. It is based on the Emmanuel Community's mercy evening concept and was co-founded by a member of the community and a priest from Cologne. It has since spread across Europe and as far afield as Australia, Brazil, Canada, the USA and the Philippines. It arrived in the UK in 2012 and

currently takes place in London, Glasgow and Birmingham.

#### How it works

Nightfever is usually run on a Friday or Saturday night and preceded by a special Nightfever Mass involving the priests, musicians and volunteers of that evening's mission.

After Mass, while a group of volunteers pray in silence in front of the Blessed Sacrament, people passing the church are offered candles by Nightfever street missionaries and invited to come inside to light them, wind down, enjoy the music and atmosphere and spend time in front of the Lord.

Visitors can stay as long as they want and are encouraged to write down prayers intentions, and draw a word of scripture from baskets placed in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

As people leave they are handed a newsletter or leaflet signposting them to low-threshold events organised by the parish, diocese or other Catholic groups ranging from concerts, feast day celebrations, talks, and courses such as RCIA, Alpha in a Catholic Context, or the Catholicism series.

Volunteers and priests are on hand throughout the evening to engage in conversation and to hear confessions.

Every Nightfever starts and ends with prayer time for all those involved in that evening's mission and other missionary activity taking place across the globe.

#### Who runs a Nightfever?

Nightfever is run by volunteers accountable to the parish priest, and supported by prayer groups, communities, youth groups, youth workers, mission schools or university chaplaincies. Local mission leaders are provided with mentoring support by designated Nightfever UK mission leaders and the Nightfever UK Coordinators who stay in close contact with the initiative's cofounder, Fr Andreas Suess.



**Open Church . Open Heart . Be Still . Find Peace . Be Loved**

[www.nightfever.org](http://www.nightfever.org)

## The Fruits of Nightfever in the UK

Nightfever has also been running in the UK since February 2012 and so far there have been 10 missions in London, 2 in Glasgow and 1 in Birmingham.

Volunteers and priests alike have been overwhelmed by the numbers of people accepting the invitation to light a candle and enter our churches. Each mission they are struck by the conversations they have with visitors and what has moved those visitors to come into the church. On any given Nightfever evening with 30 volunteers out on the street, 200+ people come into the church.



Visitors comment on how they have been touched by the evening, the prayerful atmosphere, the beautiful music, the stillness and openness of the evening. Some visitors have never been in a church, others have been long absent. Many ask questions about the Faith. A number return to the following Nightfever, start coming to Mass or show up at parish events.

These missions have been blessed with exceptional levels of support from volunteers and priests. The consistent experience across the missions is that those who get involved in Nightfever return again and again to assist. At St Patrick's in London alone there are now 50+ regular volunteers.

### What people say

*'Blessed evening! Grateful to be here. Astonished by the harmony of music, silence, readings and prayers. Would love to bring my children to the next Nightfever. Thank you!'* A visitor



*'Very beautiful and spiritual. Availability of priests for confession is complimentary to adoration, making it a perfect evening retreat.'* A volunteer

*'The Lord has given something really special to this parish through Nightfever, especially the prayer and work of evangelisation.'* Fr David

*'An excellent way to bring together parishioners, priests and local prayer groups.'* A volunteer

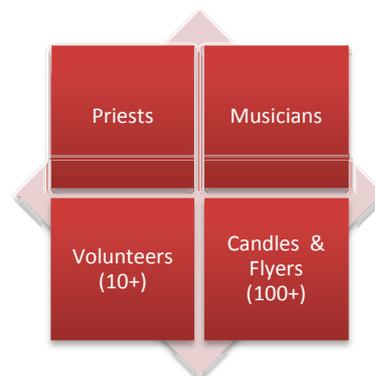
### Setting up a Nightfever Mission in your parish

For further information on how to set up a Nightfever Mission in your area you should contact one of the National Nightfever Coordinators who will provide you with advice on how to set up your first mission, identify volunteers from existing missions to help you on the first evening, designate a mentor to provide you with on-going support for your mission and send you a Nightfever Starter Pack (comprising a Nightfever Manual, planning checklist, and other useful materials).

To run a Nightfever in your parish you will need the support of your parish priest, 10+ volunteers to run the street mission, a music ministry, some candles, and a Nightfever Starter Pack.

The Nightfever Coordinators in the UK are:

- England and Wales: Zyg Rakowicz, contactable on 077899 05059 / [ewcoordinator@nightfever.org](mailto:ewcoordinator@nightfever.org)
- Scotland: Rachel Kidd contactable on 077898 11946 / [scotlandcoordinator@nightfever.org](mailto:scotlandcoordinator@nightfever.org)



Visit [www.nightfever.org](http://www.nightfever.org) to watch a video of Nightfever in action and to find details of upcoming Nightfevers

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