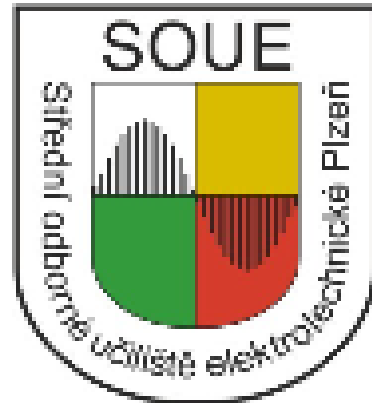


Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Project: “Different but together“

Religious diversity in Pilsen

Religious monuments form a large part of the historical heritage of Pilsen. The city was a bastion of Catholicism, even in times when the Hussites were victorious in Bohemia. Today, Pilsen is the seat of a bishopric.

Religion

Since 31 May 1993 Plzeň has been the seat of the Catholic Diocese of Plzeň. The first and incumbent Bishop is František Radkovský. The diocese covers almost the entire territory of Plzeň region with a total of 818,700 inhabitants. The Diocese office is in St. Bartholomew's Cathedral on Republic Square in Plzeň. The diocese is divided into 10 vicariates with a total of 72 parishes.

The Czech Evangelical Lutheran Church is headquartered in Plzeň.

Presently, 39.8% of **Czechs** consider themselves atheist; 39.2% are Roman Catholics; 4.6% are Protestant, with 1.9% in the **Czech**-founded Hussite Reform Church, 1.6% in the **Czech** Brotherhood Evangelic Church, and 0.5% in the Silesian Evangelic Church; 3% are members of the Orthodox Church; and 13.4% are undecided.

Other religion in the CR – about 1,132 inhabitants declared themselves Jewish; Muslims are less than 0.1% of our population and they are confessed mostly by immigrants; over 6100

people signed up for Buddhism – they are mostly Vietnamese.

The situation in Pilsen is the same as in the CR.

Jewish community in Pilsen – in the year 1942 about 3000 Jews had to leave the city and went to the concentration camp Terezín. Only 116 came back after the war. Today there are about 200 people in Jewish community but the community is very closed.

St. Bartholomew's Cathedral

The truly dominant feature of Pilsen is the Cathedral of St. Bartholomew, whose construction coincided with the establishment of the city and was completed in the early 16th century. The church is a national monument, as is the argillite sculpture on its main altar, known as the "Pilsen Madonna". The statue represents the so-called "beautiful style" of the Gothic period. The cathedral boasts the highest church tower in the Czech Republic (102.6 m), whose galleries at a height of 60 metres provide an overview of the entire city and its surroundings. In 1993, on the order of Pope John Paul II, Pilsen was declared a bishopric and St. Bartholomew's Church became a cathedral. Nowadays it is closed because of a big reconstruction of the interior.





Franciscan monastery and Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In the vicinity of Republic Square is the Franciscan monastery and the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The church is one of the oldest buildings in the city that is still preserved in its original early Gothic style. The monastery was badly damaged during the Hussite wars. The Chapel of St. Barbara is decorated with frescoes dating from around 1460, when the monastery was restored. At the turn of the 18th century it was partly rebuilt in Baroque style. The monastery houses a permanent exhibit of the Museum of Religious Art of the Pilsen diocese. The exhibit offers visitors a chance to become familiar with the life and institutions of Christians through historical religious objects.





Church of St. George

The Church of St. George is one of the oldest buildings in the country. It was built for the Benedictine monks after Prague Bishop St. Adalbert returned from Rome in 992. Originally a Romanesque church, it is located in a picturesque valley at the confluence of the Úslava and Berounka in the Doubravka district.



Church of St. Anne at the former Dominican monastery

This Dominican convent was built by Jakub Auguston between 1711-1714; St. Anne was added later, based on a design by Auguston. Today, it is used by the Orthodox Church.



Church of John of Nepomuk

The church was built in the neo-Romanesque style based on a design by architects J. Svoboda and F. Stalmacher in 1911 - 1912. Its two towers measure 63 m.



The Great Synagogue

The Great Synagogue was built in 1892 in the Moorish-Romanesque style, and is not only the largest synagogue in the Czech Republic, but also the second largest in Europe after Budapest. Today, the unique acoustics of this one-of-a-kind structure contributes to the unforgettable experience of the frequent concerts that take place there. Nowadays it is closed because of a big reconstruction of the interior.



"The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."