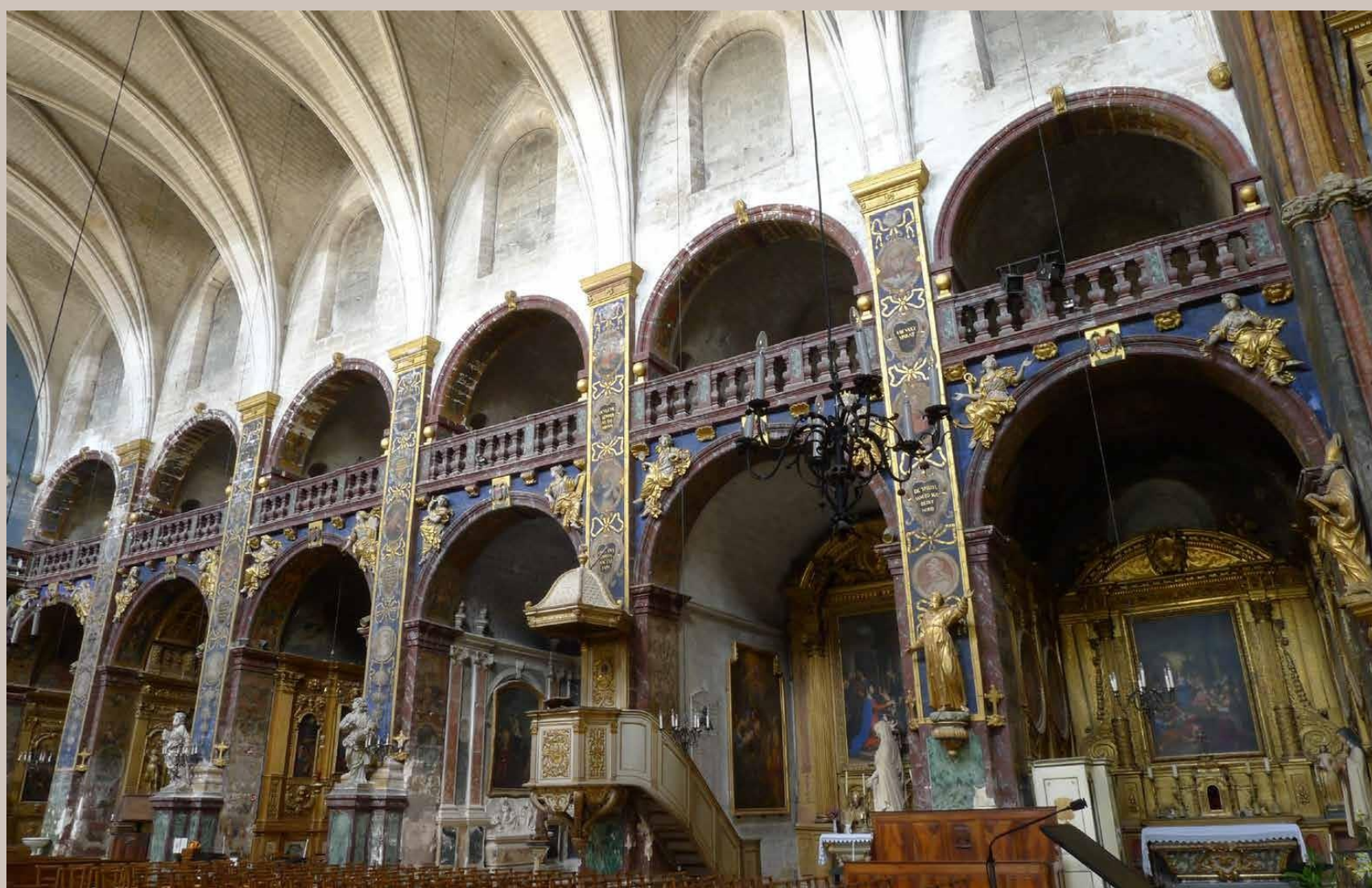


Place de l'Église

The square in the very heart of the city – Place de la Liberté and formerly Place aux Grains – has always been the centre of community life for L'Isle residents.



Notre-Dame-des-Anges collegiate church

Founded in 1212, the collegiate church was consecrated in 1222 by the bishop of Cavaillon. Reconstruction of the apse and bell tower began in the 15th century in a southern Gothic style, which then shifted towards a Renaissance composition. Between 1645 and 1675, the nave and side chapels were rebuilt in a Jesuit style, according to plans by the great Avignon architect, François de Royers de la Valfenière. Classified as a Historical Monument in 1911, Notre-Dame-des-Anges never fails to surprise visitors with its exterior simpleness that contrasts with the luxuriousness of the Baroque decor interior.

The marketplace and stilt houses

The square was once surrounded by shops and houses built on stilts, a few of which are still visible today. They are a testament to the city's commercial and economic activity before the 20th century. To the south of the church, an open-air marketplace used to form Rue de l'Épicerie, since destroyed in 1829. The square was a supply centre for farmers and merchants, where they could purchase cattle, fruit and vegetables, but it was also probably a hub for the wool industry and later the silk industry.

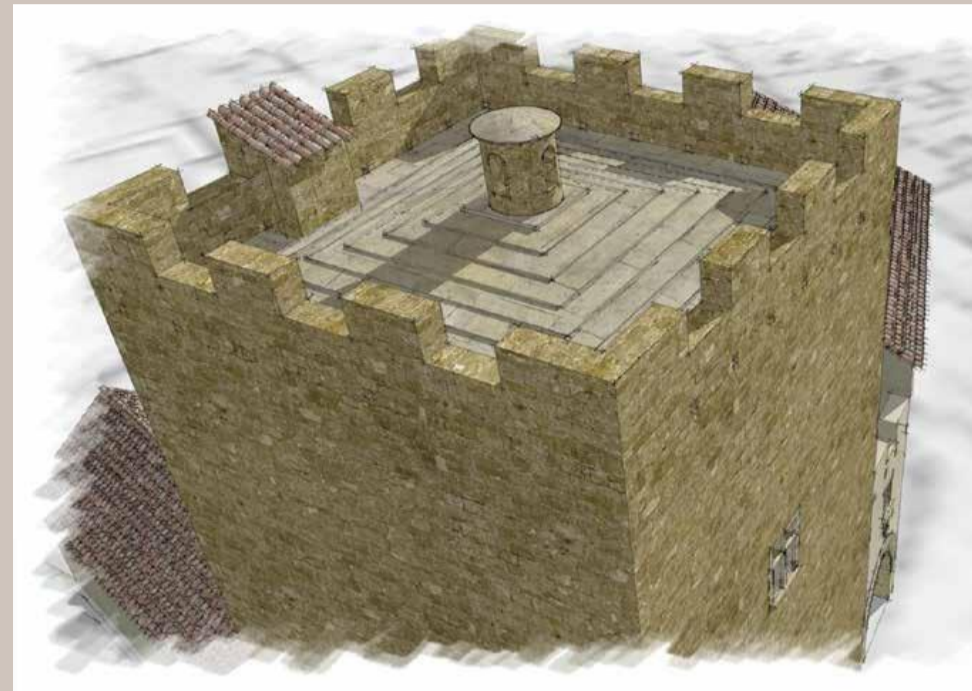
A market seems to have existed in L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue since at least the 14th century. Having lost none of its popularity of yesteryear, the market is currently held on Thursdays and Sundays.

The public Granary and Chapelle des Pénitents Blancs

Adjacent to the collegiate church, the public granary (also known as the *sextier* or ‘granary of abundance’) was constructed in 1779 by Esprit-Joseph Brun on the site of a children’s cemetery. The ground floor of the building features a series of groin vaults resting on impressive pillars. On its northern side, the granary leans against the entrance vestibule to the former Chapelle des Pénitents Blancs (pedimented façade), built one year earlier by the same architect. The chapel – which has stood at the centre of the cluster against the collegiate church since the 16th century – was sold during the French Revolution. The brotherhood, which was reunited in the early 19th century, built a new chapel in Rue du Dr. Roux.



The medieval Tower



Reconstruction of the top of the tower and its battlements

A medieval tower dating back to the 12th century overlooks a cluster of buildings around which other aristocratic buildings were attached from the 13th century on, including a stateroom and apartments reserved for the nobility. It was one of the city’s political hubs in the 12th and 13th centuries when it was run by a seigneurial regime. At the centre of the cluster is the Hôtel de Brancas, a 15th-century Gothic residence. This site experienced numerous transformations (detached private house in the 18th century, Italian-style theatre, cinema, dance hall, etc.). Amongst other establishments, it was home to the Auberge de la Tour d’Argent for over three centuries.

Café de France and Willy Ronis

Willy Ronis (1910-2009), a famous French photographer, settled in L’Isle-sur-la-Sorgue in the 1970s, in a street near Place de l’Eglise. During his time there, he lectured at Avignon’s school of fine arts and in Aix-en-Provence. Amongst others, he is known for a photo of L’Isle’s Café de France taken in 1979.



‘Café de France’ by Willy Ronis

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