

St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Chaplaincy



St Mary's University Chapel

The architect of St Mary's Chapel was Sir Albert Richardson PRS (1880-1964), who based his design on the medieval Cathedral at Alby in southern France. This was a popular model in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries for brick churches. Some of the expense of building the Chapel was absorbed by making the undercroft into the University Library.

The Chapel's construction marked the end of a long and distinguished tradition appropriate to High Anglican and Roman Catholic worship, its total cost of £104,000 (approximately £1.7 million in today's money) reflecting its lavish scale and superior finishes. It is rare to find a church of the 1960s so massive and traditional, and which is so distinguished a successor to college chapels of previous centuries. St Mary's Chapel, however, is Sir Albert Richardson's only complete post-war church and one of his most significant late works.

The first Mass was celebrated on 15th August 1963 by George Andrew Beck, Bishop of Salford.



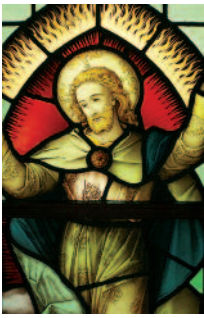
Another distinctive features is its Reredos set behind the marble Altar and steps painted by Constance Stubbs during 1964/65. In 1964 Constance Stubbs successfully competed against leading contemporary artists for the commission to paint a Reredos in the Chapel of St Mary's in Strawberry Hill.

As you look at the figure of Christ with his hand out in welcome to the body of the Church, just above his head there is a dove which represents the Holy Spirit.

The lower part of the picture comprises a central panel with Our Lady and the Twelve Apostles.

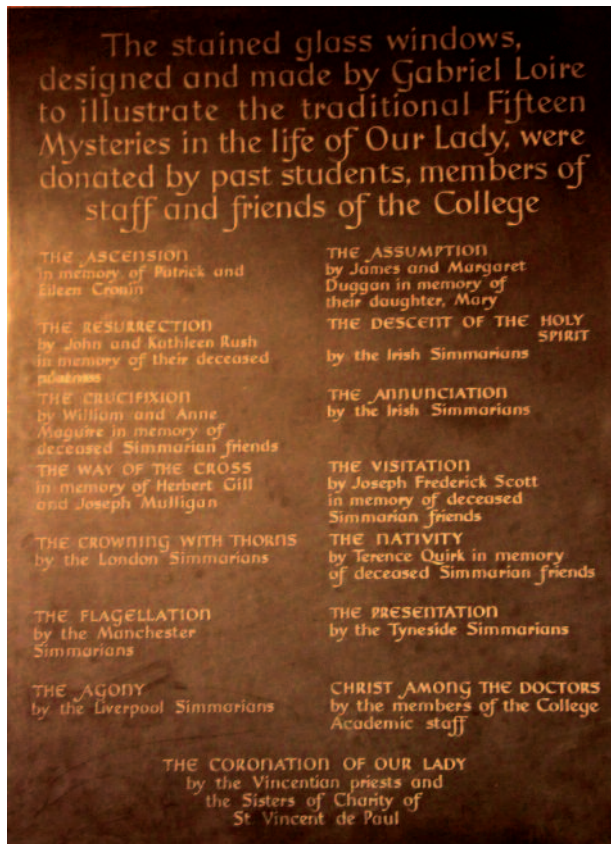
The Principal Fr Kevin Cronin, the Architect, Builders, Painters, Governors and other Vincentians are incorporated as characters on the large panel below which represents many areas of St Mary's and outside, who were involved with the building of the Chapel and the Dedication.

On 21st June 1962 Cardinal Godfrey Solemnly Blessed and Dedicated the Chapel to Our Lady.



The glass in the staircase from the Crypt to the Chapel consists of fragments taken from the old Chapel at Brook Green and the old Chapel at Strawberry Hill.

The large silver sanctuary lamp on the back wall of the Sanctuary was presented to the University by the old Simmarians in 1932 and was transferred to the new Chapel at Strawberry Hill at the time of dedication.



The Windows

The windows in the Chapel were given by various individuals and groups and there is a beautifully cut slate dedication of the windows at the west end on which each window is identified together with the donor.

The windows, originally with leaded lights, contain stained glass by the studios of Gabriel Loire, master glazier of Chartres Cathedral. They were unfinished when the Chapel opened in 1963, but were subsequently completed to create an impressive abstract ensemble strong in blues and reds, with contrasting windows of blue and yellow facing the piazza; their underlying concept is the mysteries of the Rosary: The Joyful Mysteries on the south side, the Sorrowful Mysteries on the north and the Glorious Mysteries in the Sanctuary.

'The glass should not be a distraction, but it should allow people to enter into themselves.'

*'The stained glass window should be something unreal –
something between heaven and earth which, in fact, it literally is'.*

Gabriel Loire

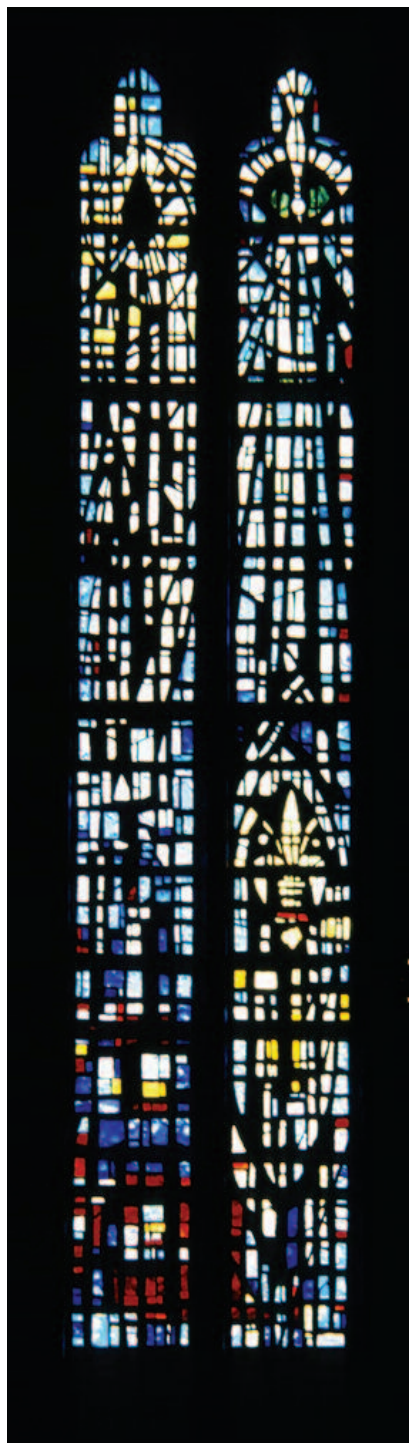
The Joyful Mysteries

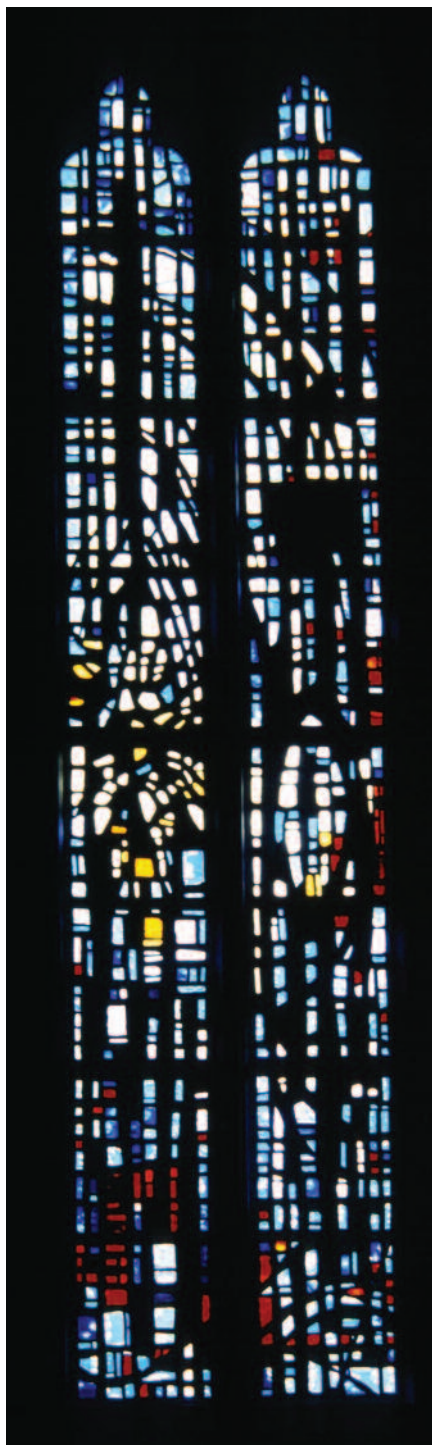
The Annunciation

Starting from the Sanctuary steps on the south side (right hand side facing the Altar), we have the Annunciation; the dove represents the Holy Spirit and the large fleur de lis set in an almond shape symbolises the purity of Mary.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:26-36





The Visitation

The next window towards the west shows the Visitation; the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth is suggested, the latter is bowed in salutation.

The window expresses their common joy at the promise of the Divine Child due to be born.

Mary went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now, as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, "Of all women, you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy."

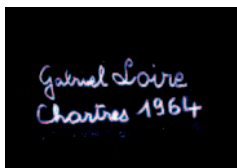
Luke 1: 39-50

The Nativity

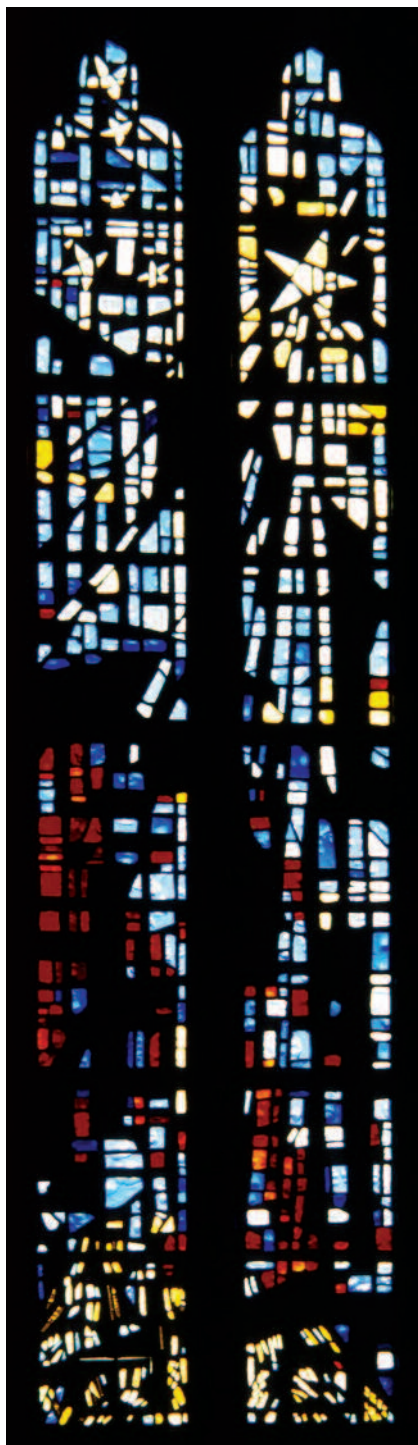
The birth of Jesus is presented by the straw of the crib and the Star of Bethlehem radiating.

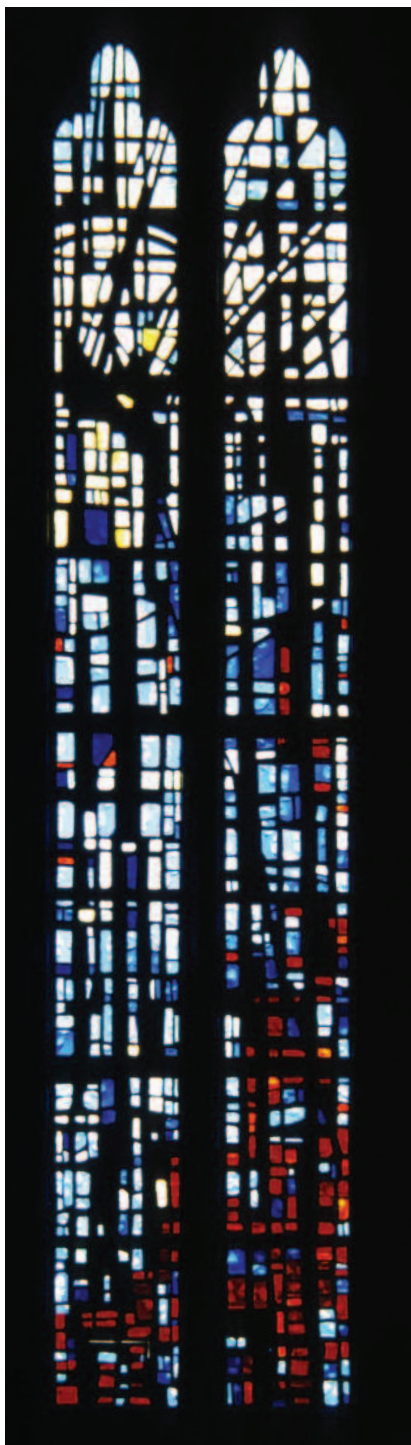
The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shows a light has shown. For there is a child born to us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:1-7



Signed in the window





The Presentation at The Temple

The theme is continued in the next window; there is the same radiant light illuminating the temple steps where Joseph and Mary have brought infant Jesus, and where Simeon in prophecy said:

Now master, you can let your servant go in peace just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' ... And he said to Mary his mother, "You see this child: he is destined for the fall and the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected and a sword will pierce your soul too, so that the Secret thoughts of many may be laid bare."

Luke 2:22-40

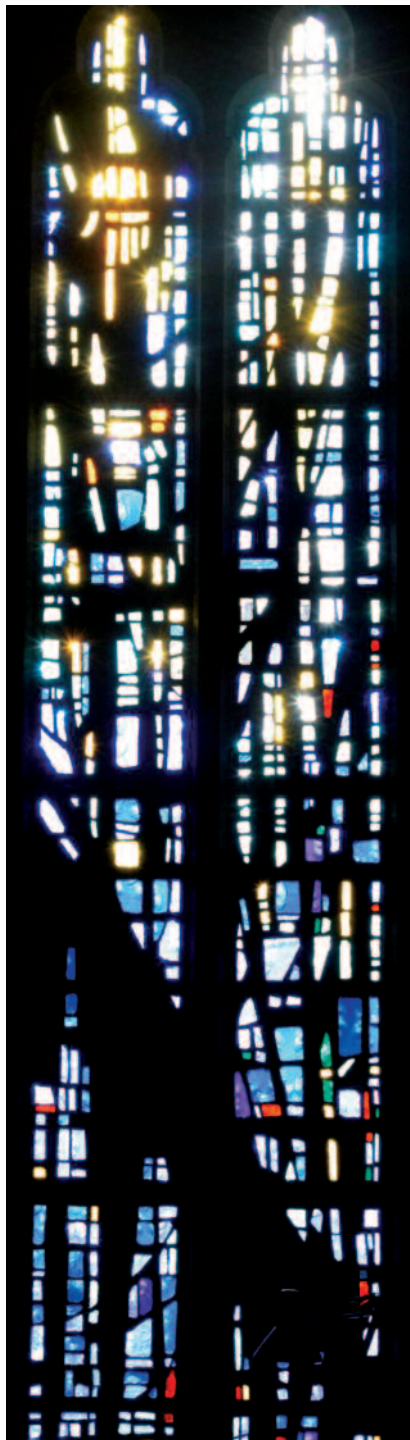
The Child Jesus Among The Doctors

Lastly, on the south side is depicted the child Jesus among the doctors of the Law; by His hand, which guides and teaches, that Christ brings light to a world of darkness.

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go up to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on the way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later they found him in the temple sitting among the doctors listening to them and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies.

Luke 2:41-51





The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Agony in The Garden

Following on to the North side we face the Agony in the Garden symbolised by the chalice above the trunk of an olive tree.

They came to a small estate called Gethsemane and Jesus said to his disciples, "Stay here while I pray," Then he took Peter and James and John with him. And a sudden fear came over him and great distress. And he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here, and keep awake." And going on a little further he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if possible this house might pass him by. "Abba (Father)!", he said. "Everything is possible for you, Take this cup away from me. But let it be as you, not I, would have it."

Mark 14: 1-15:47

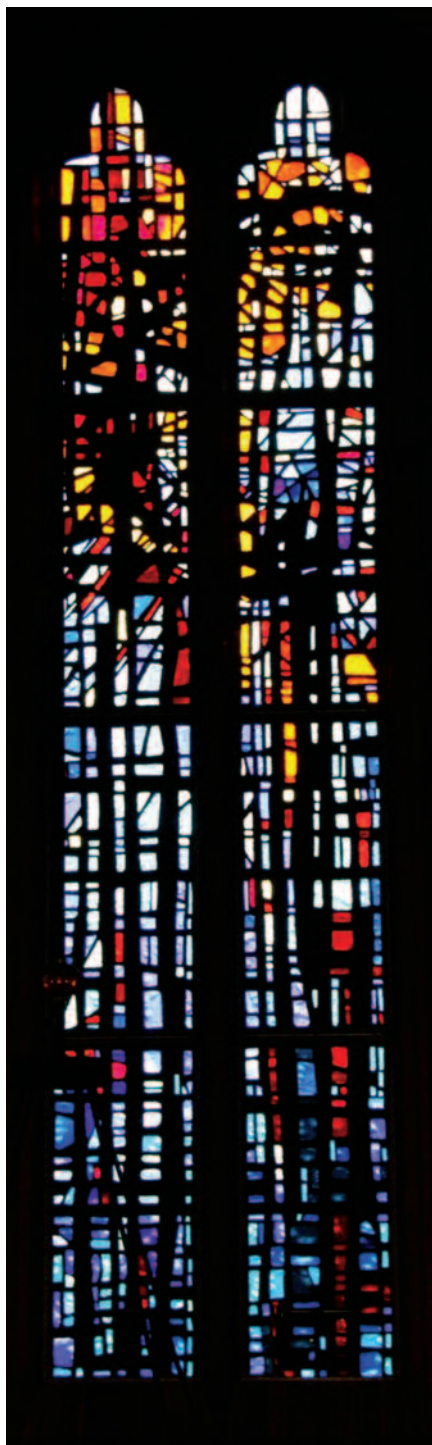
The Scourging at the Pillar

The next window shows the Scourging at the Pillar (or the Flagellation); we see a sombre red column and the whips loaded with small lead weights.

*For my part I made no resistance, neither did I
turn away. I offered my back to those who
struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my
beard; I did not cover my face against insult
and spittle.*

Isaiah 50: 4-7





The Crowning of Thorns

Then comes the Crowning of Thorns where a great thorny crown is apparent.

The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty victor' brow.

The highest place that heav'n affords
Is his by sov'reign right.
The king of kings,
The lord of lords,
All heaven's eternal light.

Good Friday Hymn

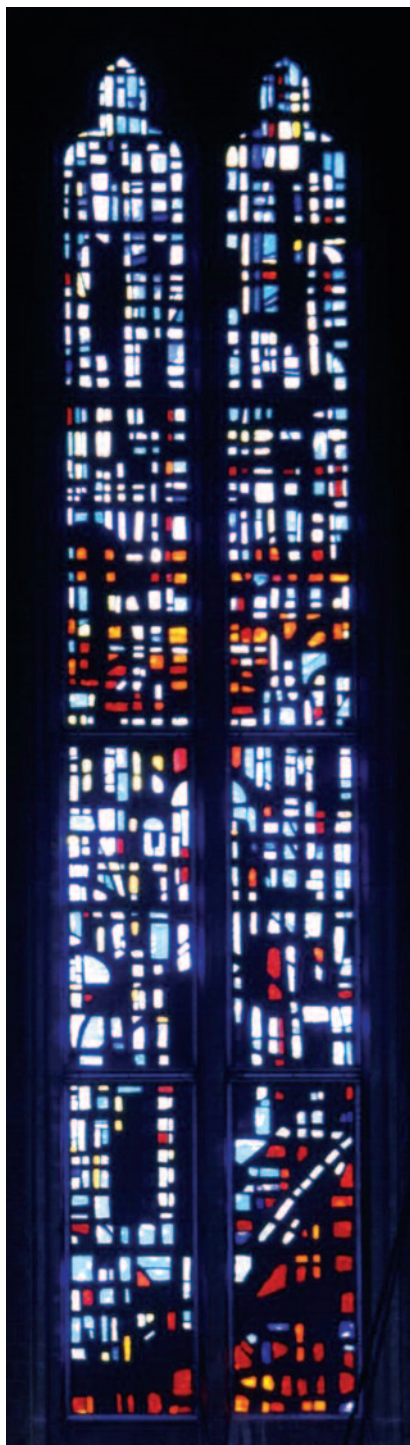
The Carrying of The Cross

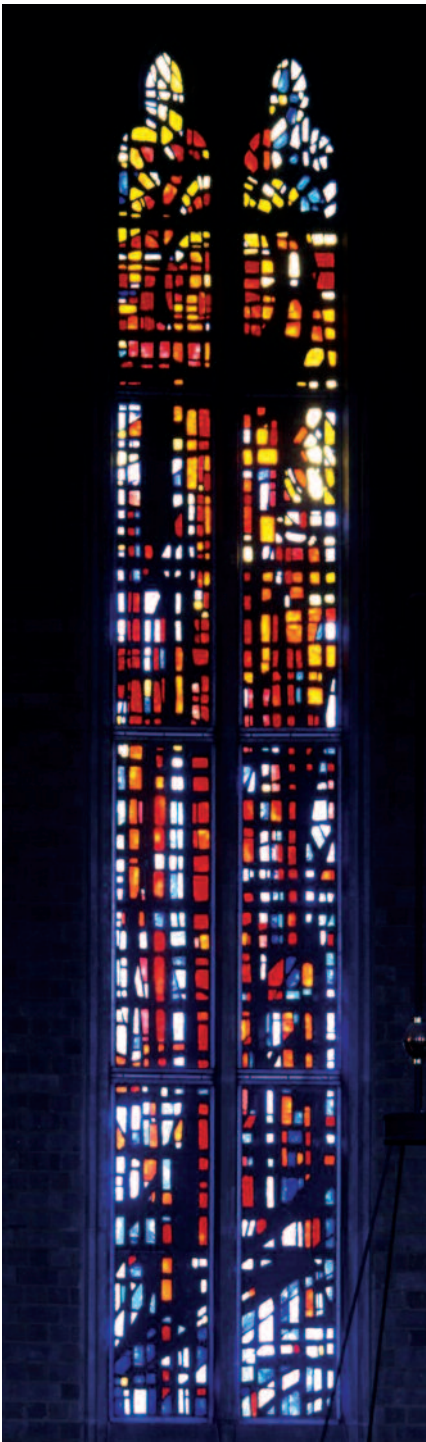
The following window symbolises Christ climbing the hill and in the centre square houses can be seen and also the domes of the city of Jerusalem.

*In the face of all my foes I am a reproach,
An object of scorn to my neighbours
And fear to my friends.*

*Those who see me in the street
Run far away from me.
I am like a dead man,
Forgotten in peoples' hearts
Like a thing thrown away.*

Ps 30: 12-13.15-17





The Crucifixion

Lastly, before the Altar steps is the Crucifixion; the window mullion forms the cross which is topped with a symbolic sun in the manner of XVth century iconography.

*For our sake Christ was obedient,
accepting even death, death on a cross.*

Phil 2:8-9

The Glorious Mysteries

The Resurrection

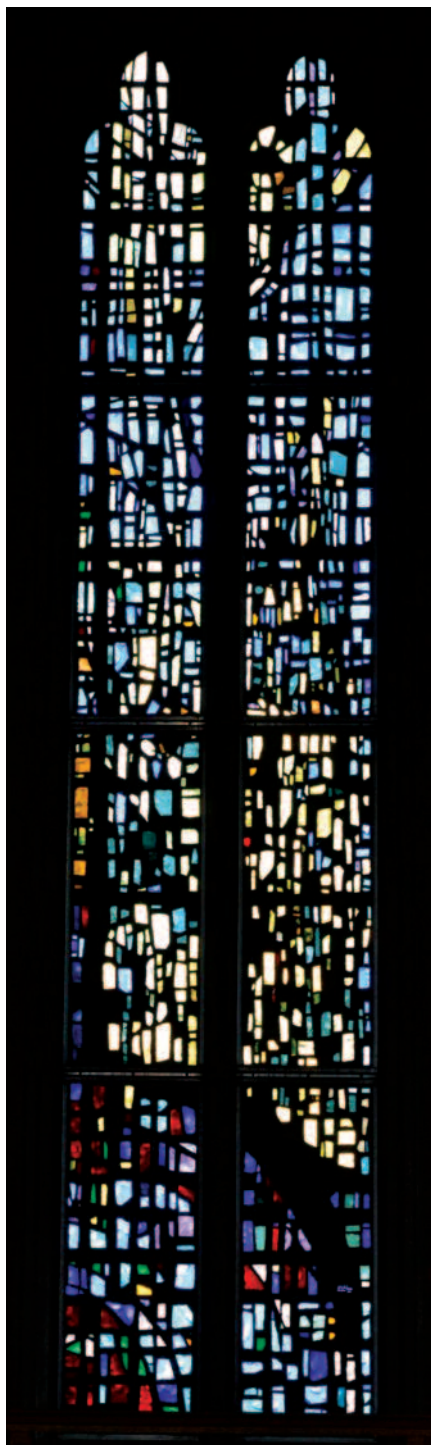
On the north side of the sanctuary (the area beyond the Altar steps) is the first of the Glorious Mysteries. The Resurrection is suggested by the dark vault of the tomb below and the vault of light spanning above

*Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see
upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!
The angels there attesting;
Shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope has risen:
He goes before you into Galilee
That Christ is truly risen from the dead
We know.
Victorious King thy mercy show!
Amen. Alleluia!*

From the Sequence for Easter Day



Signed in the window





The Ascension

In the next window, Christ is suggested rising out of sight from the world where only his footprints remain visible.

He was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, "Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there."

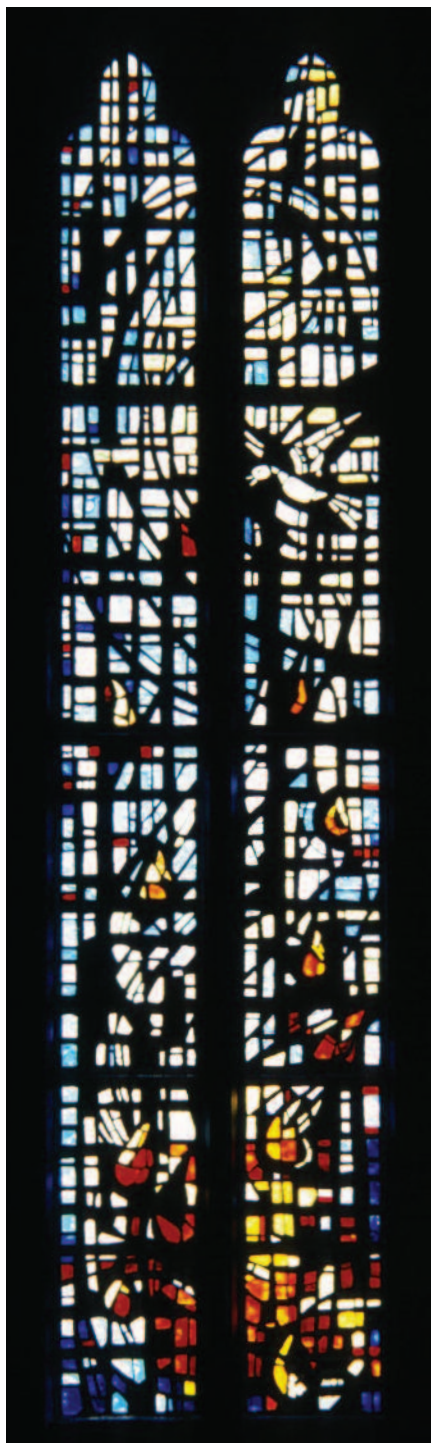
Acts 1: 9-11

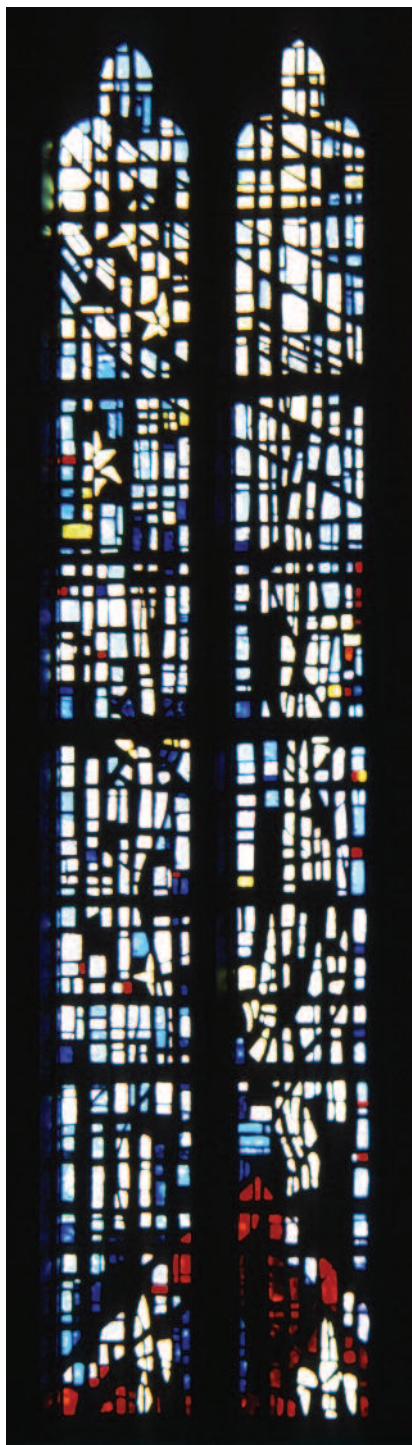
The Descent of The Holy Spirit at Pentecost

Turning again to the south side, the window next to the Altar steps depicts Pentecost; flames rise and are divided into twelve tongues of fire.

This is the day of Pentecost, alleluia; today the Holy Spirit appeared to the disciples in the form of fire and gave to them his special gifts; he sent them into the world to proclaim that whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, alleluia.

From Vespers of Pentecost





The Assumption

Lastly we come to The Assumption of the Virgin is symbolised by lilies coming out of the grave and changing into stars as they rise. (Traditionally called the Dormition) 'falling asleep of the Virgin'.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory, Death where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 15:54-57

The Coronation of The Virgin

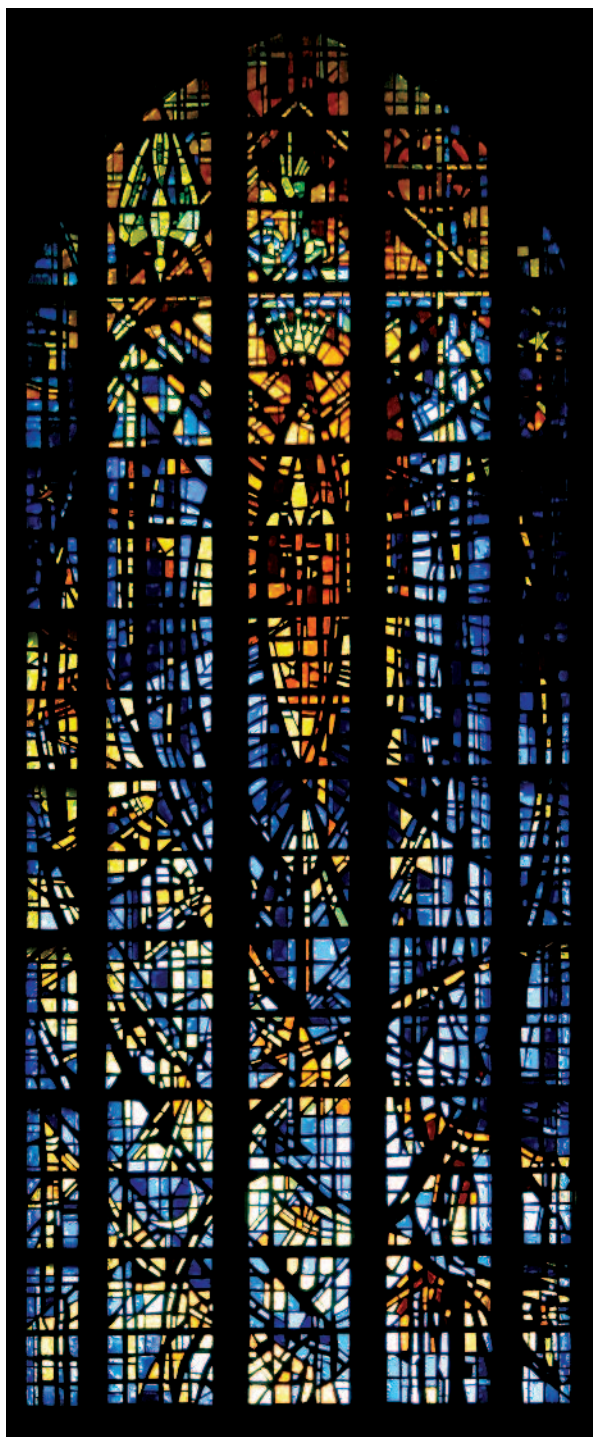
At the West end the great window represents the Crowning of the Virgin; her symbols, the moon and the Fleur de lis surmounted by a crown being received in glory by the Holy Trinity above, while all around a procession of angelic forms is suggested.

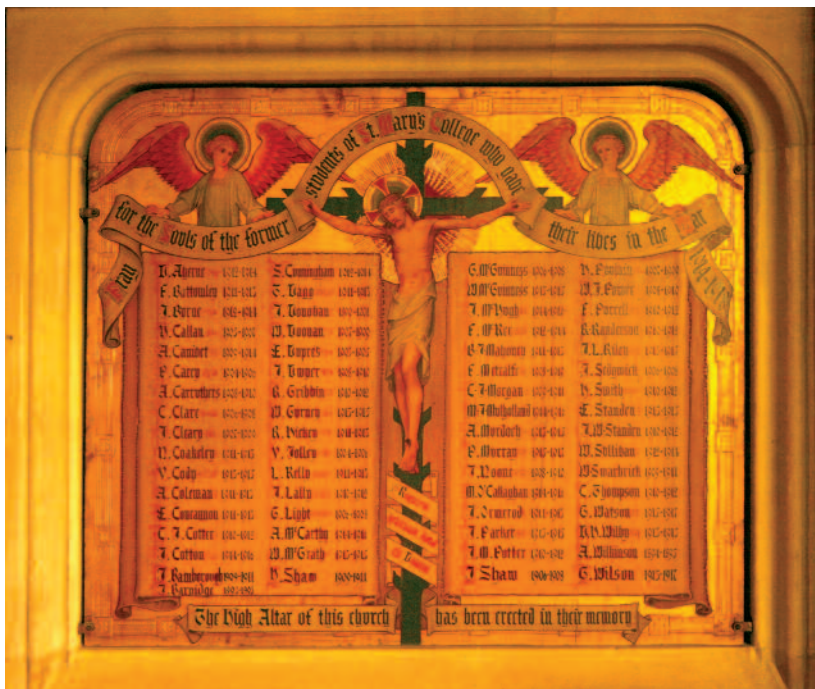
May you be blessed, my daughter, by God most High, beyond all women on earth; and may the Lord God be blessed, the Creator of heaven and earth.

The trust you have shown shall not pass from the memories of men, but shall ever remind them of the power of God.

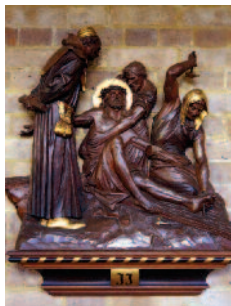
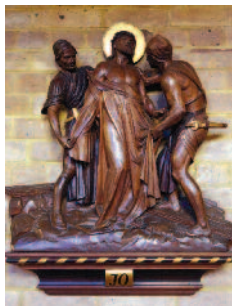
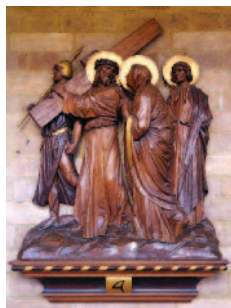
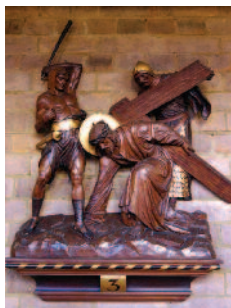
God grant you will always be held in honour, and rewarded with blessings, since you did not consider your own life when our nation was brought to its knees.

Judith 14:18-20





Also at the West end of the Chapel on the South and the North sides are rolls of honour for the Simmarians who died in the First and Second World Wars.



These beautifully carved Stations of the Cross situated on either side of the main Chapel were hand carved by Austrian craftsmen.



Pope Benedict XVI presented to St Mary's University a mosaic picture depicting the Madonna del Popolo which is taken from an ancient Byzantine icon venerated in the Church of Santa Maria del Popolo in Rome. The mosaic picture was produced by the experts of the Vatican Mosaic Studio in 1991.



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