

21. **Bishops' chapel**: painted portraits of the first bishops of Roermond (16th up to and including 18th centuries), window with coats of arms of bishops from 1853 onwards and St. Christopher (Lelievelt, 1971), and, on the wall, the coats of arms of the predecessors of the present bishop and statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, patron-saint of the diocese (19th century). Entrance doors: richly worked panels of former choir screen (1733).

22. **Painting** 'Annunciation' (18th century).

23. Former St. Nicholas' chapel: on the so-called 'Martyrs' altar of Our Lady of Sorrows a **pietà** (17th century) as well as plastic statue of St. Theresia of Lisieux and ceramic statue of St. Lambert (Charles Vos, 1930). **Windows** (Max Weiss, 1955): the Limburg saints Wiro, Plechelm, Otger (right) and Gerlach and Servatius (left).



24. **Ossuary**, burial place of all the human remains which were collected in 21 coffins at the time of the construction of the underfloor heating and reburied in 2005. Here (and throughout the church) **floor tiles** indicate the original 15th century outer wall.

25. Three **confessionals** (Petrus Vink, 1730), constituting an iconographic whole with the pulpit, from the church of the Friars Minor.

26. **Window** (Max Weiss, 1955) representing St. John of Nepomuk, patron saint of the secret of the confessional.

27. **Painting** 'Ascension of Christ' (Thomas Bosschaert, 1651) with **window** (Huub Kurvers, 2006) framing the painting and in which the colours and lines from the painting are continued in abstract form.

28. **Painting** 'Pentecost: descent of the Holy Spirit on Mary and the apostles' (Jacob de Wit, 1722).

29. Statue of **St. Anne with Virgin and Child** (16th century): strong resemblance with the precious St. Anne triplet by the Master of Elsloo.

30. In niche: **stone** from excavations under St. Peter's basilica, Rome (close the grave of St. Peter, apostle and first pope), deposited in 2005 as token of connection between the local church and the universal church.

31. Two of four **windows** (Diego Semprun Nicolas, 2014/16), in the same style as his windows on the other side. In the window to the far left the theme 'The greatest love has he who gives his love to others' with at the top Christ on the Cross, giving his life for the peoples of the world and at the bottom priests of this diocese, who gave their lives in the concentration camp because of their work for the resistance, as well as (in the medallions) a few war saints. In the second window from the left the theme 'Bread from heaven to share with many' with at the top the Old-Testament rain of manna from heaven to nourish God's people on their journey through the desert to the Promised Land and below the wondrous bread multiplication from the New Testament with topical reference to boat refugees, as well as (in the medallions) Saint Thomas Aquinas (author of Sacramental Hymn) and the recently canonized saints Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Father Karel Houben from Munstergeleen. In the next few years two more 'Sacramental windows' will be realized. These will represent among other subjects the Passover of the leaving Jews, the Last Supper and Holy Communion for people today, as well as a procession of the Blessed Sacrament and the adoration of the Lamb.

32. **Marble bust** of Angelus Count d' Ongnies et d' Estrees, 8th bishop of Roermond (Bourscheit, 18th century).

33. Renaissance **Altar of the Holy Sacrament** (Peter van Aecken, 1595; reconstructed after 1992 earthquake) with pictures of the Last Supper, Christ, Mary and various saints. In the tabernacle the Holy Sacrament is kept.

34. **Windows** (Joep Nicolas, 1956): the birth of Christ, the representation of bread and wine and the church fathers.

35. **Cabinet of the Holy Sacrament** (17th century) interior overlaid with ivory.

36. **High Altar** (Leo Brom, 1953 and 1961): Namen stone with bronze panels (the apostles, Christ, Mary and six Limburg saints), in the altar relics from the saints Wiro, Plechelm and Otger. At the right side **standard of the gospel** (wooden eagle, 17th century) and at the left side **lectern** (Bert Kreijen, 2006). High above hanging wooden **triumphal cross** (Workshop Pierre Cuypers, 2nd part 19th century).

37. **Bishop's throne** (cathedra, Leo Brom, 1957) with on the back coat of arms of the resident bishop of Roermond and (small) those of the 23 deaneries at the time; **choir stalls** (17th century) and **paintings** 'Deposition from the Cross' (after Jan van Scorel, 1544) and 'St. Honoratus' (1625).

38. **Windows** (Joep Nicolas, 1953): In the central window the Trinity and the Adoration of the Lamb with below St. Christopher, patron saint of town and church. To the left Mary and St. Michael with the seven-headed dragon and the holy bishops Servatius and Willibrordus. To the right the seven sacraments represented by way of Biblical events.

39. **Concert organ** (Verschueren, 1955/2018): two key-boards, 37 organ-stops and 2200 pipes.

40. **Visitors' centre** (Hamers/Voorvelt, 2007).

This is the end of your tour. However, ...*Roermond has still other fine things to offer from its rich past.* In the field of religious architecture for example: The Romanesque **Munsterkerk** (Our Lady Minster Church) 13th century with the oldest princely mausoleum in the Netherlands, the **Caroluskapel** (St. Charles's chapel, there is only one other rococo church in the Netherlands), the **Minderbroederskerk** (Friars Minor church, rich ceiling painting) as well as **Kapel in 't Zand** (Chapel in the Sand, a place of pilgrimage). *May many people draw on the history of the faith practised here and return home encouraged in their belief.*

In the visitors' centre further information is available, extensive brochures, photos, picture postcards and devotional objects related to the cathedral.

This centre is open during visiting hours of the church.

OPENING HOURS:

Every day from 2 PM – 5 PM

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST:

Sundays and High Festivals at 11.30 AM

IS THIS MONUMENT WORTH ANYTHING TO YOU?

Admission to the church is free. Exploitation and maintenance require more than €150.000, - yearly.

This is more than € 400 a day! Therefore our visitors are asked a voluntary contribution. Help us.

Many thanks in advance!



ST. CHRISTOFFEL
KATHEDRAAL
ROERMOND

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Chance visitor

or tourist,

fascinated

by this

beautiful

historic

edifice,

longing

for an

oasis

of silence

in the bustle

of the city,

christian,

visiting your

church for

prayer,

person in

search of

a possible

answer to

your question



WELCOME TO THE

CATHEDRAL CHURCH

SAINT CHRISTOPHER

IN ROERMOND

The cathedral on the skirt of the Market Square of the city of Roermond is an impressive witness of its history, a centre of cultural history and of experience of faith.

Together with Munsterkerk (Our Lady Minster Church) Caroluskapel (St. Charles' Chapel), Minderbroederskerk (Church of the Friars Minor), Stadhuis (Townhall) and Prinsenhof (Prince's Court), it is situated in the age-old centre of the city and is the valuable reflection of its rich past.

Already before 1400 there was a small parish church a little west of the present church which, however, in course of time came to find itself outside the city walls. In 1410, therefore, a new church was built 'inside the walls': *The oldest church extant in typical Lower Rhine Gothic*, a cruciform basilica with walled-in western tower, transept with three-sided closures and a three-aisled hall choir (15th and 16th centuries).

The church met with various catastrophes: 16th century iconoclastic fury, fire, storm damage, destruction during World War II and, moreover, an earthquake in 1992. From 2005 until 2007 a radical renovation took place, led by architect Piet Mertens.

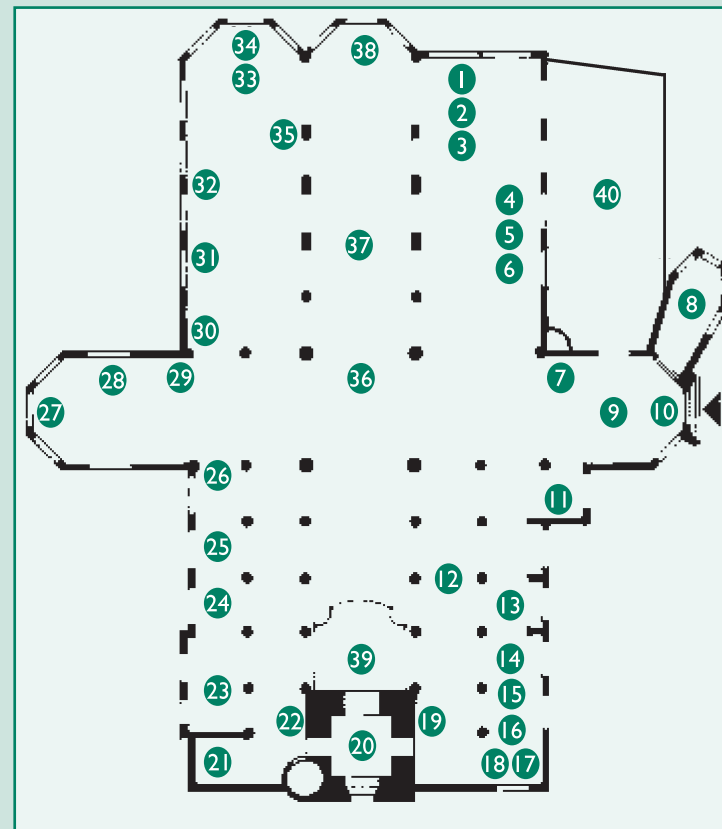
Apart from being a historic monument with a rich art treasure, St. Christopher's cathedral is also a Roman Catholic church space which is very much alive.

Since 1661 it has been *bishop's church (= cathedral) of the Roermond diocese founded in 1559*. So in an ecclesiastical sense it is the head church of the province of Limburg. On high feasts, therefore, this is where pontifical holy masses are celebrated such as the ordinations of a bishop, priests and deacons and various other special celebrations. The church is also the centre for liturgy and church music in Limburg.

Together with Our Lady Minster Church, the cathedral is the *parish church of the inner city of Roermond*, where the faithful come together for prayer to God and for celebrating the sacraments. Catholics gather to celebrate the Eucharist in which Jesus is present through His Word and in the sacrament of the Eucharist (bread and wine become Body and Blood of Christ). Thus they become one community living in the spirit of Christ, prepared to follow Him in word and deed, upheld by pope, bishops, priests, deacons, religious and laity. Also today, now that for many people in Europe belief in God is no longer self-evident, Christians in this town are quite prepared to be of service to the many people living here or staying as guests.

A CONCISE TOUR OF THE CHURCH

- 1. Stained-glass window** (Frans Nicolas, 1870): death and ascension of Our Lady, the only window which survived World War II.
- 2. Altar of Our Lady** (Workshop Pierre Cuypers, 1884): tryptich of woodcarving painted in polychrome with the 'fifteen joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries of the Rosary' and the apparition of Mary to St. Dominic; altar reliefs with Old Testament representations; in the niche typical cross of the barge-guild. (18th century).
- 3. Altar and lectern** (Egino Weinert, 1985), made of bronze, representing the biblical story of Emmaus.
- Series of four **stained-glass windows** (Diego Semprun Nicolas, 2005/12) representing right on the left the Magnificat with below the regional places of pilgrimage of Our Lady: Gulpen, Panningen and Weert; next to this the Star of the Sea with the Limburg cities lying at the Meuse (represented with their churches): Maastricht, Roermond and Venlo, and below the main places of pilgrimage in the region: Maastricht, Roermond and Kevelaer; next to this the Tree of Jesse with regional places of pilgrimage Venlo, Sittard and Landgraaf and far on the right the Glorification of Our Lady with the places of pilgrimage Echt, Thorn and Tienray.
- Memorial stone** (1884) in memory of Joan of Randenraedt, an extraordinarily pious woman, who died in 1684 in an odour of sanctity, to whom particular gifts were attributed during her lifetime. Her tomb – a tile in the floor marks the entrance – was (re) discovered in 2005.
- Triptych** (Albin Windhausen, 1926): 'Deposition from the Cross' with right St. James and left St. Christopher; over this: six of twelve **apostle busts** (Henri Vivroux, 1783/86) from the demolished St. Nicolas' Church in Maastricht, later on given a place in the Augustines' church there (meanwhile deprived of its religious function). The other six busts are hanging on the other side on the side wall of the choir of the Holy Sacrament. In the vicinity communion bank with oak **statues of praying angels** (F. Dietrech, 1833).
- Dalheim Cross** (1300): the oldest and possibly most special work of art in the church; wooden miraculous Y-cross; over this: **painting** 'The stigmatisation of Saint Francis' (18th century).
- St. James's chapel** with in niche in outer wall, special arm relic of the holy apostle James, limestone statue of St. James (1510), cabinet with relics of various saints, wooden sculpture of St. James as pilgrim



(Charles Vos, 1940) and stained-glass windows (Leo Reihls, 2004) representing the story of James's life, the pilgrimage to his grave in Santiago de Compostela and Roermond as an important stop on the pilgrim's way from Friesland.

- One of **communion rails** (18th century), **triptych** of Our Lady of Everlasting Assistance (Pierre Evers, 1905) and (high up under an arch in the vaults which gave the impulse for rebuilding the church unto a hall-church) a 19th century **statue of St. Christopher**.
- Statue of St. Christopher** (Joseph Thissen, 1895): plaster prototype which stood in Our Lady Minster Church until 2005, made for the purpose of a brass statue (Cox) which adorned the cathedral spire until 1921.
- Painting** 'The assumption of Our Lady into Heaven' (Jacob Sitterich, 1737); above this: **window** (Bernd Nestler, 2011): because of innovative character, several contemporary techniques and innovating way in which the window space was handled, winner of contest Province of Limburg on occasion of 450th anniversary of diocese jubilee in 2009 around theme 'Light'. The statue below is a **dressed stick madonna** entitled 'Our Lady of the Meuse' (1850).

- Pulpit** (Petrus Vink, 1725) in Flemish Rococo style, the most impressive work of art in this church, representing St. James of Marchia trampling heresy underfoot. Pay attention to the rats and the palpable, but invisible cuff link.
- Two **confessionals** (18th century) from Xanten (Germany) with over them two **windows** (Jean-Paul Raymond, 2010): 'Roermond cathedrals'. Left: St. Christopher's church (bishop's church since 1661) with representation of patron saint and coat of arms of bishop Paredis (first bishop of diocese re-established in the 19th century). Also represented: attributes of Peter (keys), John (Lamb), Joseph (staff with lilies), Theodore (martyr's palm) and Robertus (book teacher), patron saints of pastors of church of the Holy Spirit, deprived of its religious function in 2010. Right: demolished medieval church of the Holy Spirit (bishop's church from 1559 until 1661) with coat of arms of the first bishop (Lindanus) and 20th century church of the Holy Spirit (in 2005 at the time of the renovation of St. Christopher's church bishop's church for one year).
- Former Rombouts chapel, now baptistery with **statues** of St. Luke, St. Rochus, St. Anthony and St. Joseph (19th century), oak statues of St. Peter and St. Paul (Workshop Oor, 1900) and **windows** (Jean-Paul Raymond, 2014) representing the course of life of every Christian, starting with baptism and continuing the pilgrimage of his life under the sign and the protection of the Cross.
- Baptismal font** of Venetian small mosaic stones (Antoon Molkenboer, 1941) from Roermond church of Holy Spirit closed in 2010 (originally meant for Eglise Saint Esprit in Paris destroyed during World War II). On the side of the basin is the baptismal formula, on the column the Holy Spirit as a dove and representation of baptism of Christ by John the Baptist.
- One of the **stations of the Cross** (Albin Windhausen, 1890/91).
- Painting** representing St. Catherine or St. Agnes (17th century).
- Altar** with painting 'St. John the Baptist' (18th century). Over it: **window** (Annemiek Punt, 2011), inspired on St. Thomas More, in which the colour blue refers to baptism, yellow to wisdom and creativity, ascending lines to eternal life, figure in yellow to defender of the faith, and sword and scales to justice and militancy.
- Largest specimen of the **tombstones** found in the church (1592, 3.000kg).
- Tower** (86 metres, destroyed 1945, rebuilt 1957) with five bells, among which St. Mary's bell (1892, 4.612 kg) and crowned by copper statue of St. Christopher (3.57m), overlaid with 22 carat gold leaf. On the ground floor some tombstones in the wall and contemporary statue of St. Christopher (Jean Notten, 2003).