

## **A GUIDE TO THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS IN THE NAVE OF OUR LADY AND ALL SAINTS**

1. This window depicts a scene from the life of Jesus Christ – soon after His birth He was presented in the Temple in Jerusalem by His parents, Mary and Joseph and recognised by the priest Simeon as the Saviour God had promised to send to His people – a light to all nations.
2. This window depicts Our Lady (Mary) as a child with her mother, St Anne, after whom the donor is named. The small top window depicts St Winifred, who lived in North Wales in the 7th century, at what is now call Holywell. Holywell has been a place of Catholic pilgrimage, especially for the sick, since medieval times – the window depicts her holding the Shrine buildings which pilgrims still visit today.
3. This window depicts the appearing of Our Lord to St Margaret Mary, a French nun living in Paray Le Monial in France in the seventeenth century, when He instructed her to promote devotion to His Sacred Heart, a sign of divine love and mercy to all sinners. The top window depicts the apostle St James (the name of the donor) whose shrine at Santigo de Compostella in northern Spain is still a popular place of pilgrimage today.
4. The saints depicted, St Frederic and St William, are the donor's patrons. The top window depicts Our Lady holding the Blessed Sacrament – a fitting memorial to a priest.
5. The window depicts a Biblical scene - Jesus welcomes the children. The top window again refers to the Blessed Sacrament. The pious pelican is an ancient symbol of Christ, as it was believed it fed it's young with its own blood as Our Lord feeds us sacramentally with the Precious Blood of the eucharist.
6. This window depicts two English Saints. St Chad is the patron of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, whose relics are displayed for veneration above the high altar of his Cathedral in Birmingham – the first Catholic Cathedral to be built after the reformation and 300 years of the persecution and suppressing of the Catholic faith in England. St Edward the Confessor was the penultimate King of England before the invasion of William of Normandy. His shrine is at Westminster Abbey, which he reformed and rebuilt. It remained intact after the reformation and can be visited today.
7. These two windows, close to Our Lady's Altar, are dedicated to Mary. The Immaculate Conception of Mary relates to the means where by Mary was freed from sin at her conception, in order to be the spotless vessel of Christ's incarnation. Because she was without sin, at the end of her earthly life she was ascended body and soul into heaven (left window – Mary's Assumption). The right window recalls

the seven sorrows of Mary which she endured, many of which relate to Christ's passion and death.

8. This charming window depicts the Holy Family, with Jesus helping St Joseph in his carpenter's workshop. The top window depicts the infant Jesus, arms outstretched in blessing.
9. This window, depicts the patron saints of the donors, St Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, and St Clement, one of the earliest Popes (hence the traditional triple tiara)
10. These windows are both dedicated to Our Lady – the Immaculate Conception (see notes to window 7) and the scene of the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel revealed to Mary that it was God's wish for her to be the mother of the Saviour. (Also depicted carved on the base of the high Altar)
11. These windows depict the two principal Saints of Ireland, St Patrick and St Bridget.
12. Another spiritual duo – St Francis of Assisi surrounded by birds (note the pink flamingos and parrot!) and St Clare.
13. Following on from the annunciation (window 10), this window depicts the Nativity of the Lord – note the animals in the background, and the shepherds in the distance on their way to Bethlehem. There is also a beautiful carving of the nativity on the base of Our Lady's altar.
14. This window depicts the baptism of the Lord by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. The font would originally have been beneath it. The top window depicts God the Father, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove.
15. The last window takes us to the shrine of Lourdes in France. The main window depicts the apparition of Our Lady to St Bernadette at the riverside Grotto. The top window depicts the basilica of the Immaculate Conception and the Rosary basilica at the shrine.