

## SIGNS AND SYMBOLS IN OUR PARISH CHURCH



**Church structure:** At the very top of the church building is a cross, a sign of our salvation, which rests on a glass tower with 12 ribs, recalling the twelve apostles, which merge into a modern representation of the Crown of Thorns.

**Predella:** In the centre of the church the predella (a raised circle) of rosa aurora pink marble from Portugal stands beneath the main altar.

**Corona:** Above the altar is suspended a striking Corona: 12 linked tablets creating Roman numerals to represent the Ten Commandments, plus Alpha and Omega. Each link is marked with the Star of David, and also with a dove, a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The Corona is suspended by three chains representing the Virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity – a Chalice for Faith, an Anchor for Hope, and a Heart for Love.

**Murals:** On the back wall of the church is a beautiful mural of the Blessed Trinity. Over the strong flame coloured background, symbolizing God's love, is superimposed a triangle representing the Blessed Trinity: hands to signify the Father, a dove for the Holy Spirit, and a figure of Christ whose outstretched hands lead us to the Father. All the symbols extend beyond the triangle, to remind us that Divine Love extends to us all. On the side panels of the back wall are etched two angels, such as those which accompanied the Ark of the Covenant.

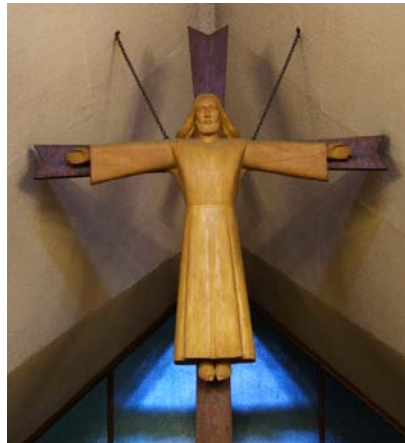
**Menorah:** Beneath the angels are suspended two Menorah, the seven-branched candlestick of the Hebrews.

**Lecterns:** The two lecterns each have a sign on the front. On the left is a name of God in Hebrew '*El Shaddai*', usually translated as 'God Almighty'. The other has the symbols of the four Evangelists: Matthew – a man; Mark – a lion; Luke – an ox; John – an eagle.

**Baptismal font:** The baptismal font is hewn from a block of stone from the castle of the Borromeo family in Arona in Italy, the birthplace of St Charles Borromeo.



**Crucifix:** At the back of the church, facing the main altar is a wooden carving of the risen Christ on the cross, entitled the Cross of the Resurrection. This crucifix was carved by Alfred Bienewitz, who also carved the 14 Stations of the Cross.



**Statues:** Wooden statues of Our Lady, and of St Joseph donated by the Penkler family, were brought from Venice. The statue of Our Lady has the crest of the Oblates "*Evangelizare pauperibus misit me, pauperes evangelizantur*"; "*He sent me to evangelize the poor; the poor are evangelized.*"