

Rochester Cathedral



Easter Trail



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1. The Last Supper

Jesus and his followers went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish Festival of *Passover*. Jesus blessed the bread and wine and shared them out. He said the bread was His body and the wine was His blood and asked his followers to “do this in memory of me”.

Each day, in Christian churches everywhere, the priest blesses bread and wine at a special table - the *Altar*, and shares them out. This is called *Holy Communion* or *Eucharist*.

This picture shows a carving of the Last Supper on the High Altar at Rochester Cathedral.



2. Jesus Prays in the Garden

After the Passover meal Jesus and His followers went to the garden at Gethsemane and Jesus, knowing what was going to happen to Him, went to pray. He prayed that God would save Him from the suffering that was to come, but also said that he would follow God's will.

Judas, one of Jesus' followers, came with soldiers and betrayed Jesus with a kiss. The soldiers arrested Jesus and took Him to the High Priest. Can you see Jesus' followers running away, frightened?



3. The Crucifixion (north side Presbytery)

Jesus was put to death on a cross because people believed that he was the Messiah, the Son of God, a special King. This made the religious leaders very cross. It also made the rulers of Israel, the Romans, cross because they believed that there could only be one king, their Emperor.

When Jesus was crucified the sky went dark from noon until His death three hours later.

The soldiers saw lightening in the sky and felt the earth shake.

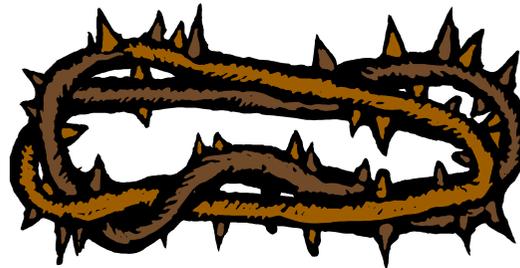
Can you see the soldiers and the lightening on the right hand panel of the picture?



4. The Crucifixion

(South Quire
Transept)

Christians believe that when Jesus died on the cross he took the punishment for all the bad things we do (our sins). They believe that because Jesus died for us, God can now forgive us. Before Jesus died he was mocked by the soldiers. They placed a crown of thorns on His head because he said he was a king. Can you see the crown of thorns?



5. The Crucifixion – Lady Chapel

Jesus was crucified on a hill outside Jerusalem called Golgotha . The name means Place of the Skull. Why do you think it is called that?

Can you see the city of Jerusalem in the background on this picture?

Mary and Jesus' friend John are feeling sad as they watch Jesus die.

The label on the top of the crucifix means "*Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews*" (in Latin the letter I is used instead of J, and the Latin word for "king" is "Rex").



6. The Easter Garden

This Easter Garden was created by the children who come to the Cathedral's Sunday Club. You can see the three crosses. Two thieves were crucified at the same time as Jesus. One of the thieves asked Jesus to forgive his sins (the wrong things he had done during his life). Jesus promised the thief that he would go to heaven that day. This shows us that everyone can be forgiven for the bad things they do if they are truly sorry. Can you see the empty tomb with the rock rolled away? This takes us to the next part of the story – the Resurrection.



7. The Resurrection

Three days after Jesus died some women went to where he was buried. They had jars of fragrant oils and spices to pour onto the body of Jesus.

When they reached the place where Jesus was buried they found the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty.

An angel appeared to them and told them Jesus had risen from the dead. Can you see the angel's wings? What colour are they?

Can you see Mary Magdalene with the jar of spice?



8. The Ascension (Warner Chapel)

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead (Easter) he returned to His Father in Heaven.

He went with some of His followers to a hillside outside the town of Bethany and after blessing them He ascended to Heaven on a cloud.

In this window, as well as having a halo (the circle around His head) Jesus is shown with a mandorla, a circle of light around His whole body.



**9. The
Ascension
(above High
Altar)**

**As Jesus
ascends to
Heaven on the
cloud he is
greeted by the
angels.**

**Can you see the
holes in Jesus'
hands and feet?
These are from
the nails that
nailed him to the
cross.**

**Can you see
Jesus' friends
watching as He
ascends to
Heaven?**



10. The Ascension (Lady Chapel)

The story of Jesus, with His mother Mary, is completed in the Lady Chapel with the Ascension of Jesus to Heaven.

You can see the three empty crosses on the hill in the back-ground. Why do you think that Jesus is standing on a cloud?

He is surrounded by a bright light, the light of Heaven.

Look at Jesus' halo (the circle behind his head).

Can you see the nails forming a cross?

Why do you think Jesus has a cross of nails on His halo?

