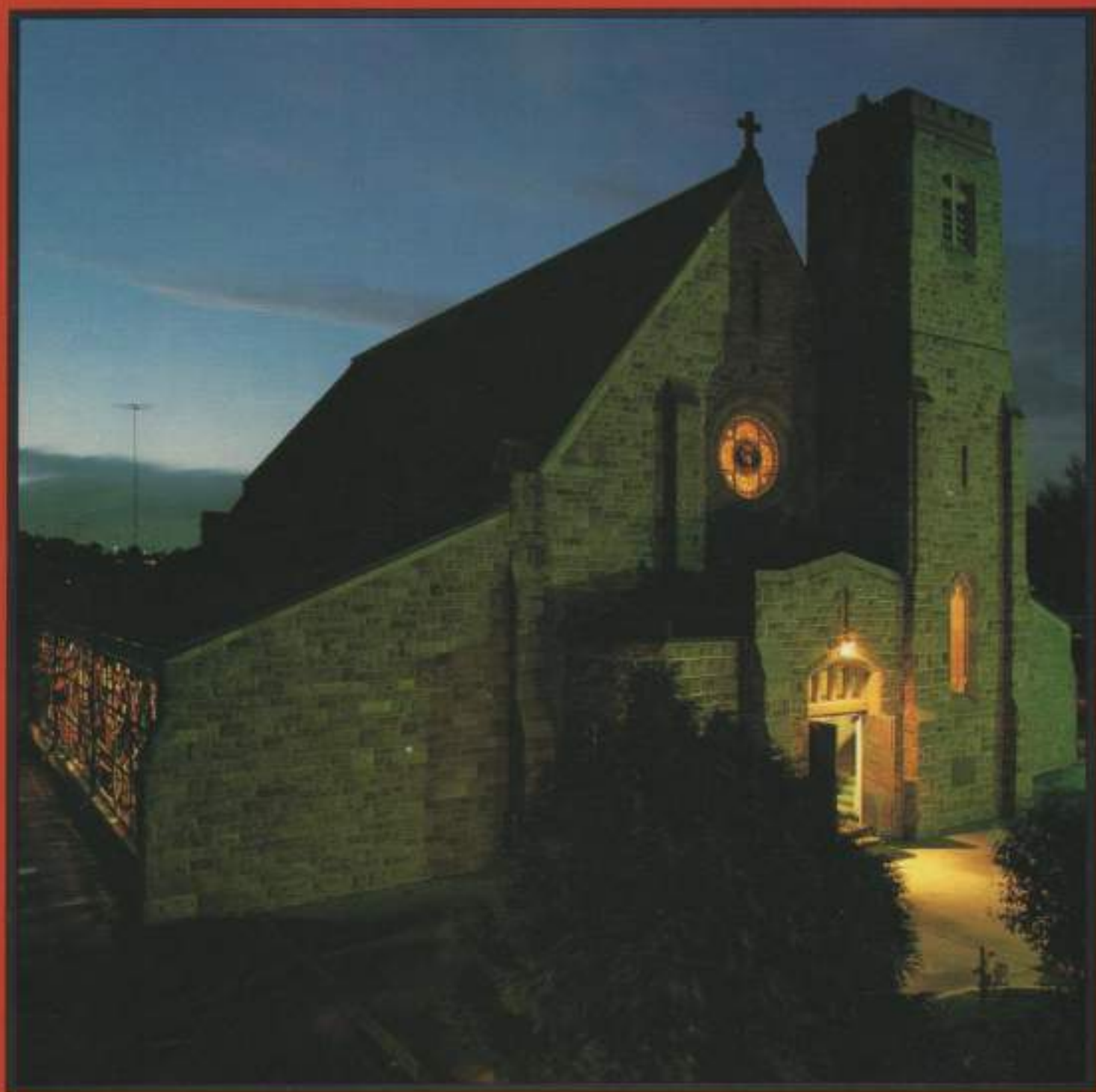


Saint MICHAEL'S CHURCH, TRARALGON



Saint MICHAEL'S CHURCH, TRARALGON

The present church, on the corner of Kay and Church Streets, is the second to be built on the site purchased by Bishop Goold, for the sum of fifteen pounds, at a public auction in 1878. It was designed by Fritsch and Fritsch of Melbourne and built by Lodge Bros. The Bishop of Sale, Most Rev. R. Ryan C.M., D.D., laid the foundation stone in March, 1936 and later the same year blessed and opened the church.

With the rapid development of Traralgon and subsequent population growth, the church had difficulty in accommodating its parishioners and in 1978 the building was enlarged, doubling its seating capacity to 640. The architect for the extension was Paul Archibald, B.Arch., F.R.A.I.A., of Melbourne and the builder P. & M. Minster of Traralgon. The Bishop of Sale, Most Rev. A. Fox D.D., laid a commemorative stone and blessed the extensions on July 2nd, 1978.

The beautiful sandstone exterior of the three course cavity brick walls, was quarried at Briagalong and transported by rail to Traralgon. In the extensions the sandstone has been re-used with matching brick work. The original slate roof has been replaced with copper-ribbed decking but the wooden trusses, rafters and battens have been retained.

With the extensions, the long, narrow, neo-Gothic church has been widened to become a simple, square, beautifully scaled building of light and space. The low level Sanctuary which projects further into the nave of the church, encourages a closer personal relationship between the Celebrants and Congregation. The circular Altar is the focal point.

Dominating the church are the brilliant, coloured glass windows of the North and South walls. John Ferguson of East Malvern, who designed and made the windows, used French glass 18 mm thick, with fine mutations in the colour. It was chipped with a hammer to give texture and set in epoxy resin, with steel mullions each metre.

The original devotional statues, crucifix and plaster relief Stations of the Cross, presented by parishioners have been retained and relocated.

Front Cover: Church at dusk.

Back Cover: Stained glass window in narthex.

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Conclusion of Sunday Mass.

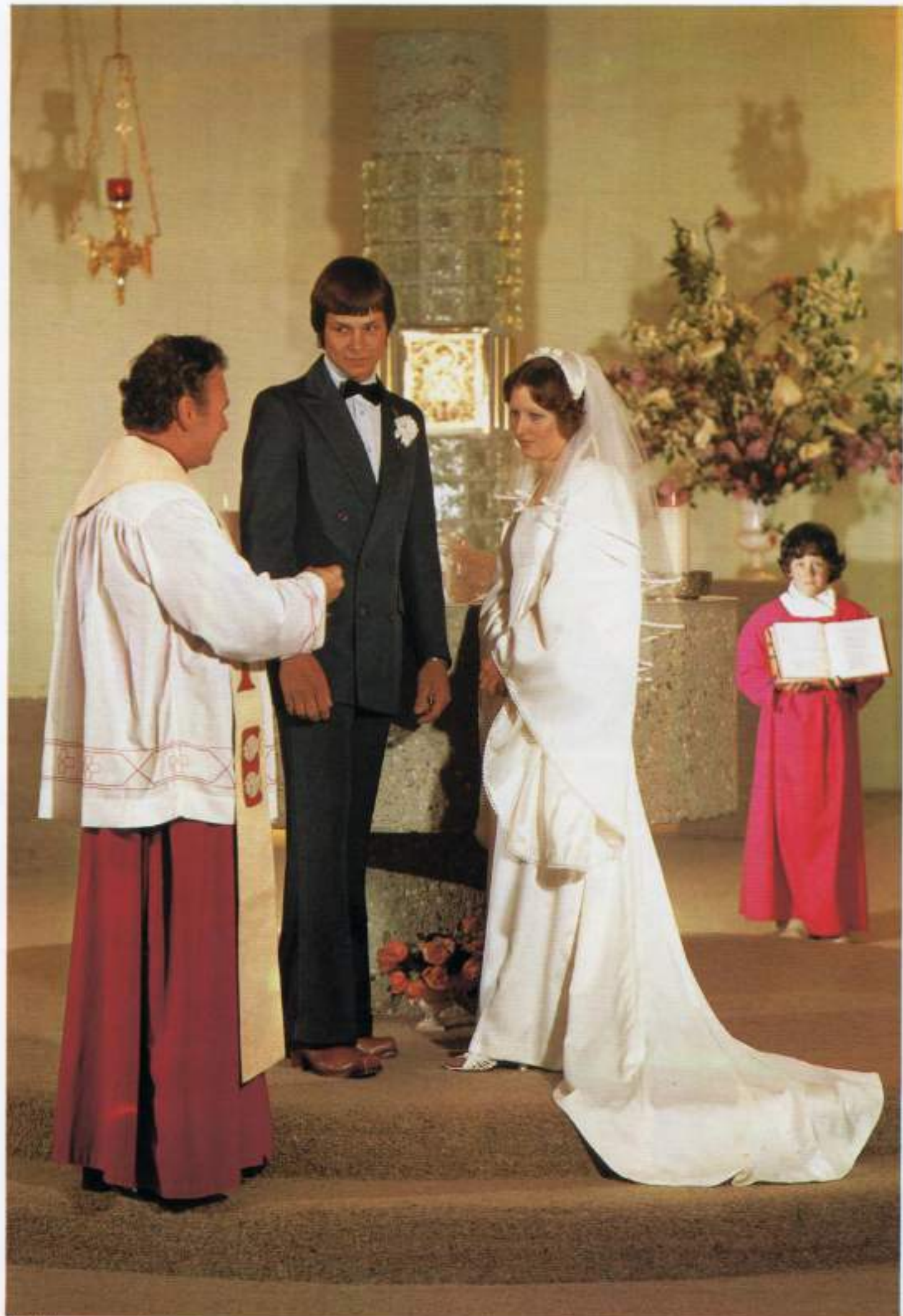


The Southern window of the extensions to the church is 24 metres long and 3 metres high and depicts the life of Jesus Christ. The panels begin with the Star of Bethlehem over the stable and the Angel announcing the glad tidings. The shepherds are kneeling in adoration at the crib. The Virgin

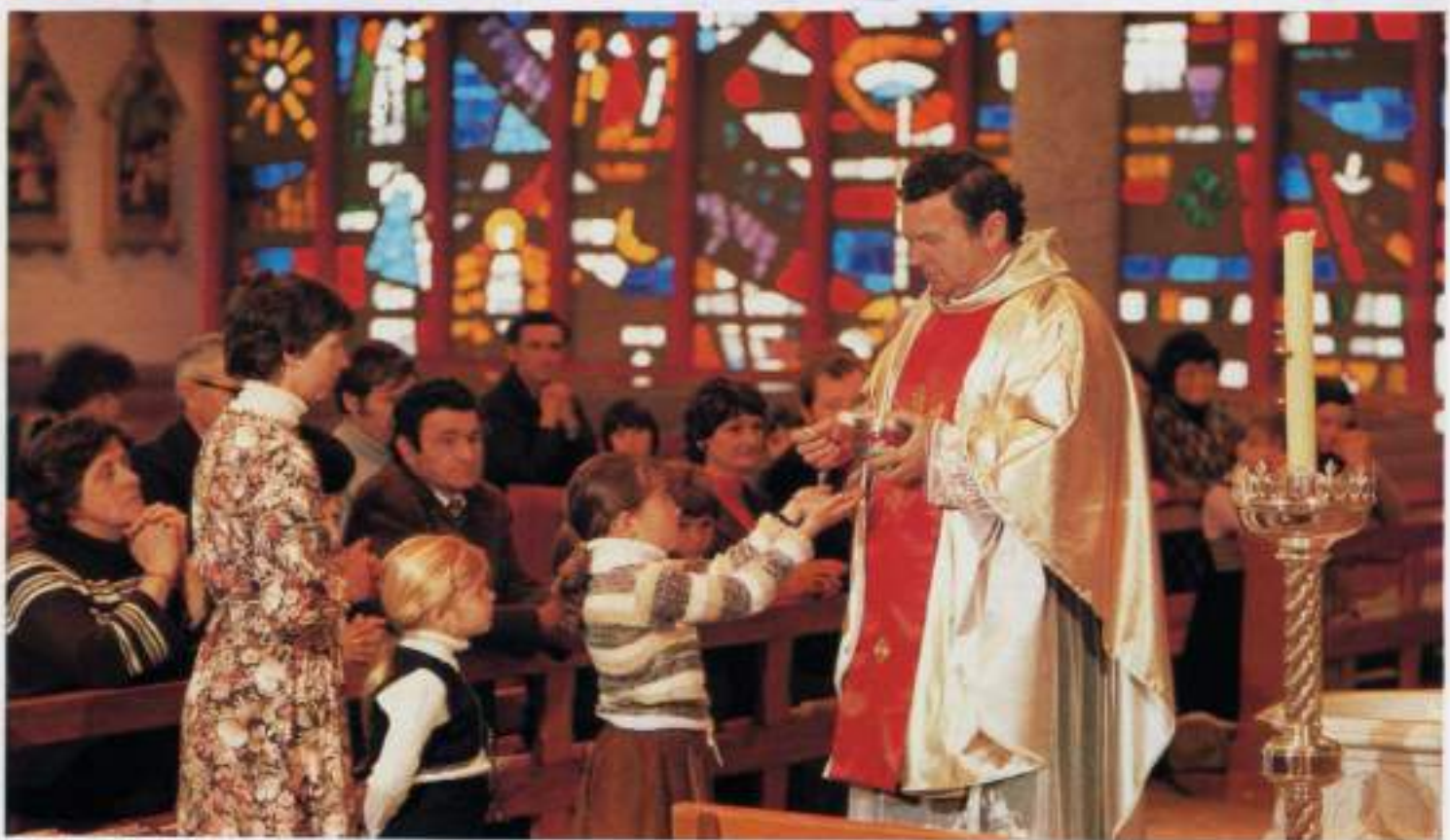
Mary and Infant Jesus on the lower panel are near a golden moon to indicate that the birth took place at night. The letters X and P are Greek for "ch" and "r" and were often used in abbreviation for the word "Christ".



Exterior view of the church.



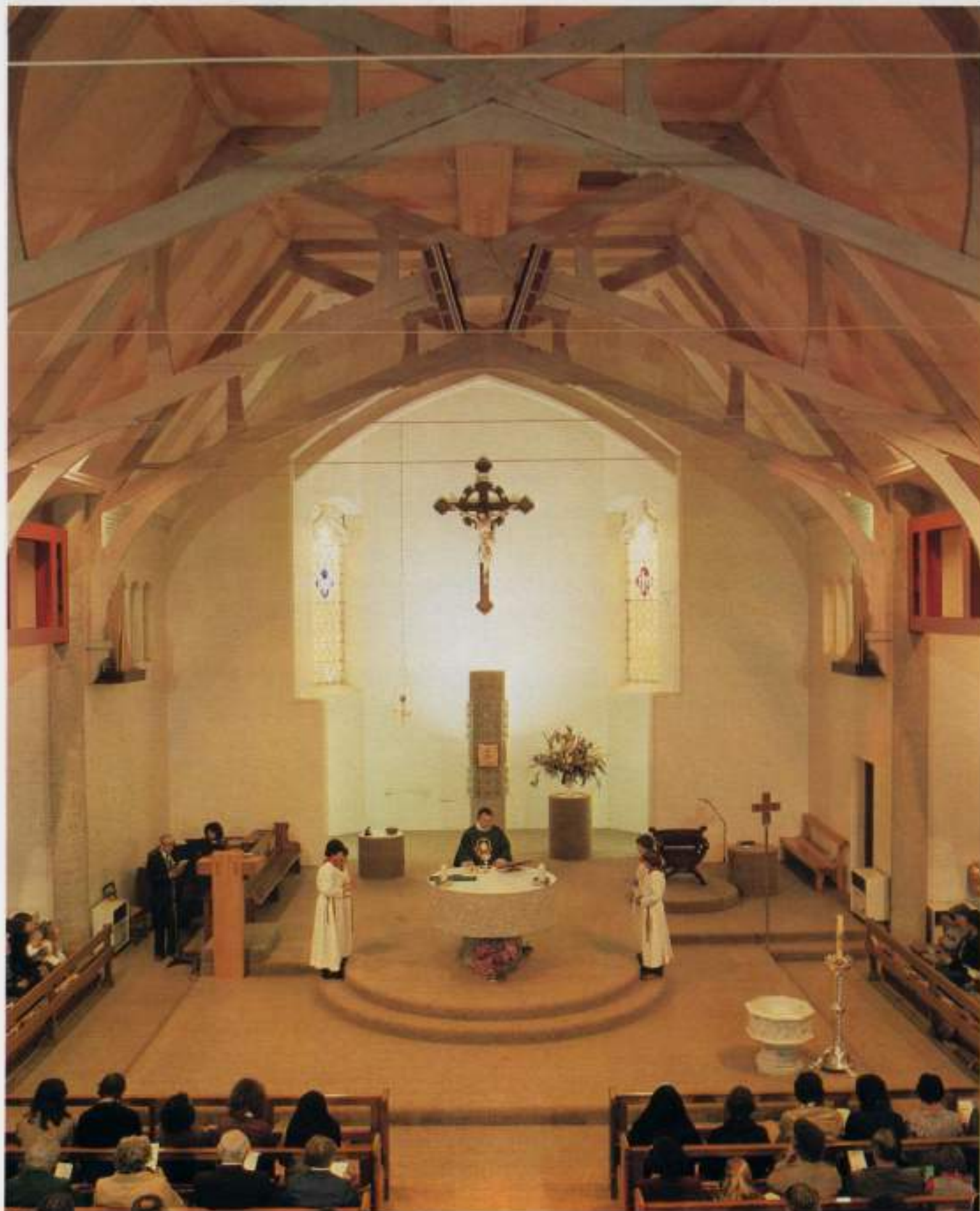
Wedding ceremony in the church.



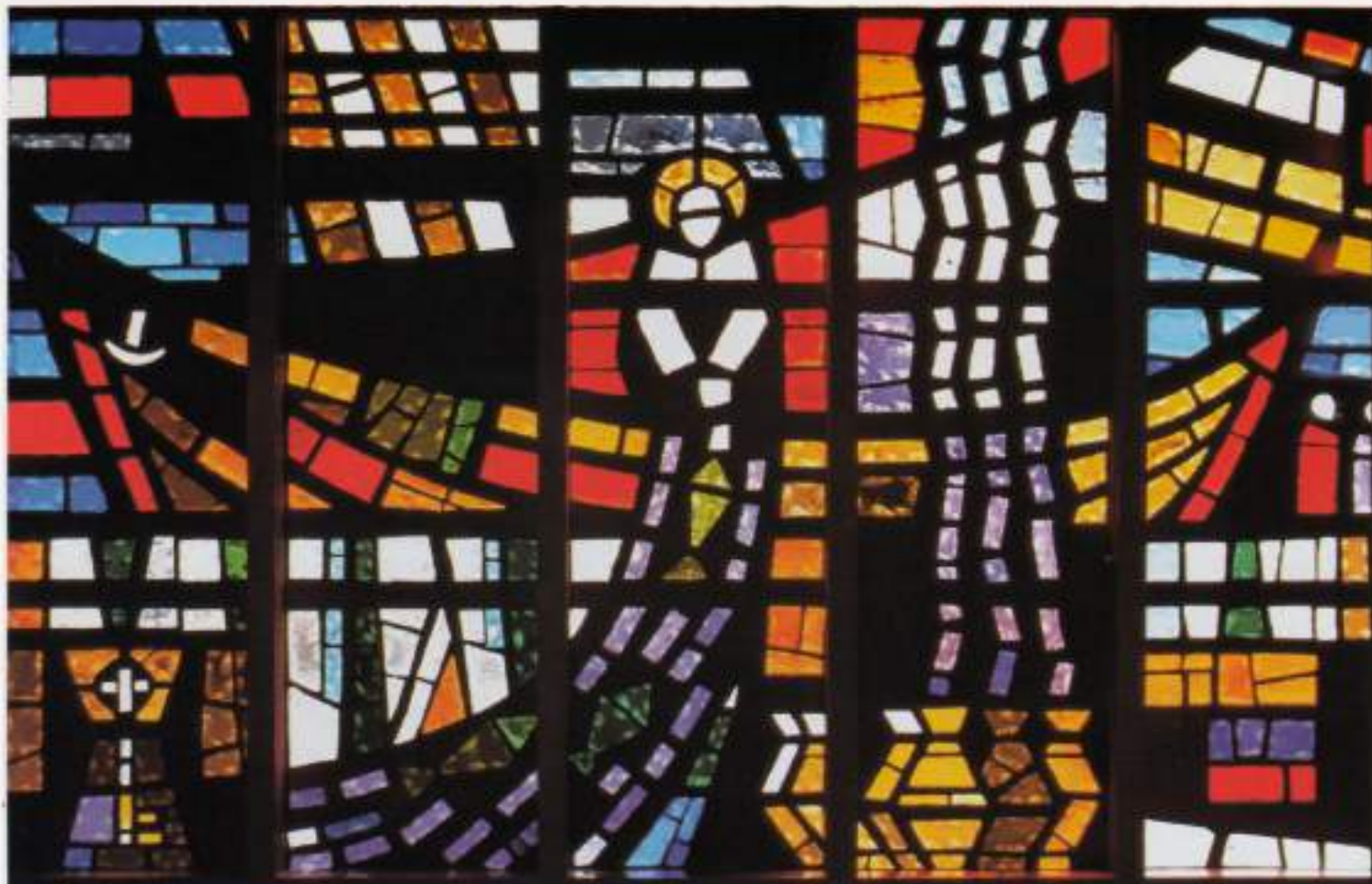
Distribution of Communion.

Left — panel of the Southern window. The baptism of John the Baptist is shown by a large hand with a bowl of water being poured on the head of Christ. Christ is again depicted at the top of the next panel calling his apostles, four of whom are

shown here. The bread and wine, which become the Eucharist, are represented by the bunch of purple grapes and the three golden prongs, symbolizing a head of wheat. The green vine leaf reminds us of Christ's words "I am the vine, you are the branches."

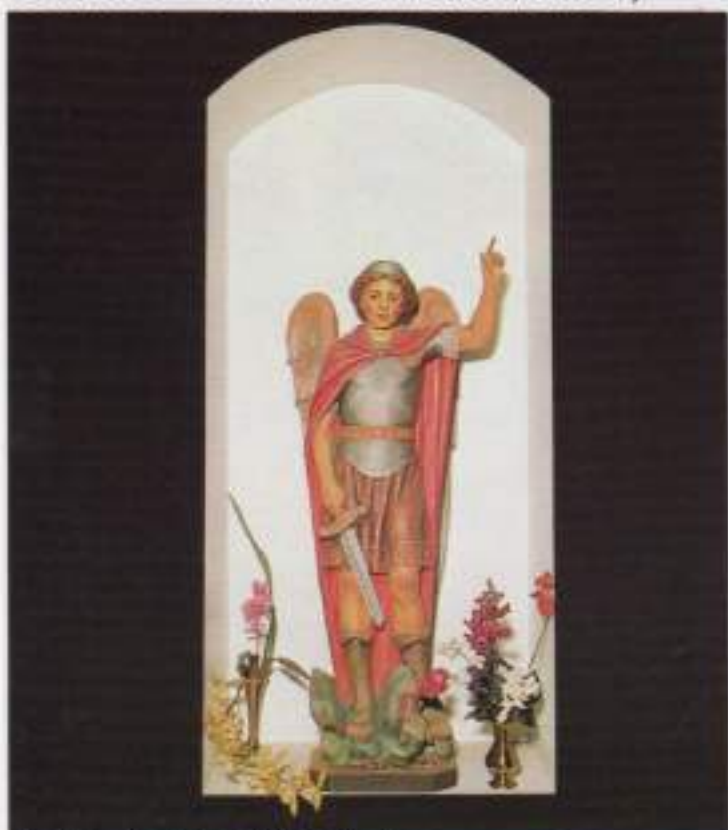


The Sanctuary.

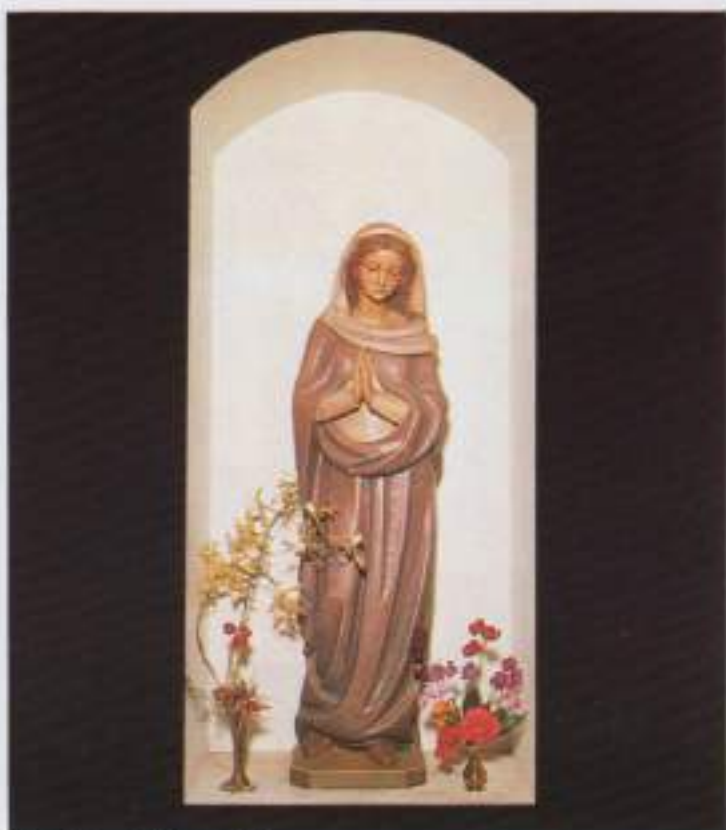


These five panels of the Southern window show Christ leaning over the side of a boat hauling in a draught of fish in a net. It portrays a scene in His life when He called the apostles to be involved with people and said to them "from henceforth you will be fishers of men". All the miracles worked by

Christ in His life on earth are represented in this panel by the changing of the water into wine at Cana in Galilee, which was His first miracle. The stream changes from blue to white to purple and is caught by the golden jars below.

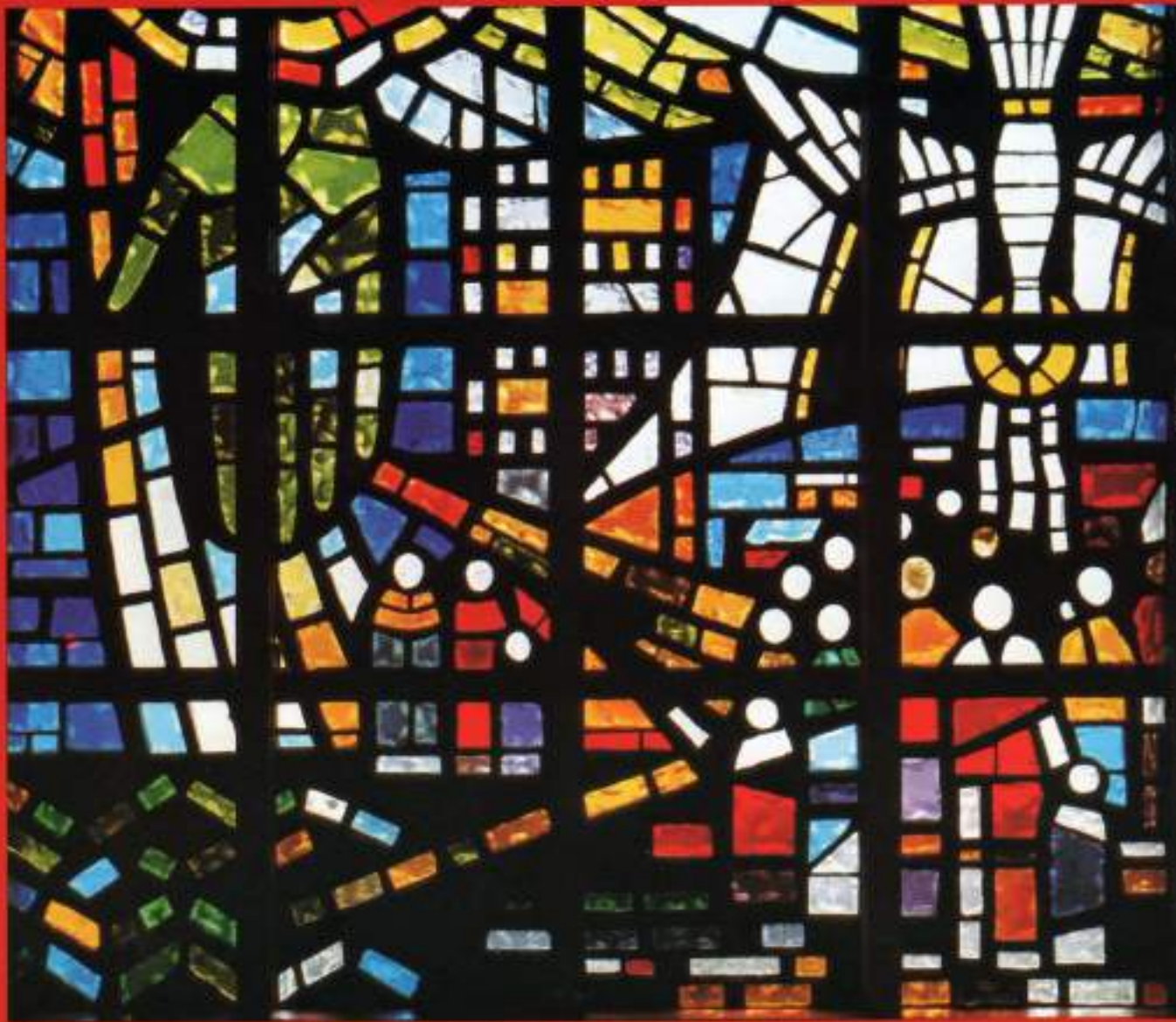


St. Michael, Patron of the church.

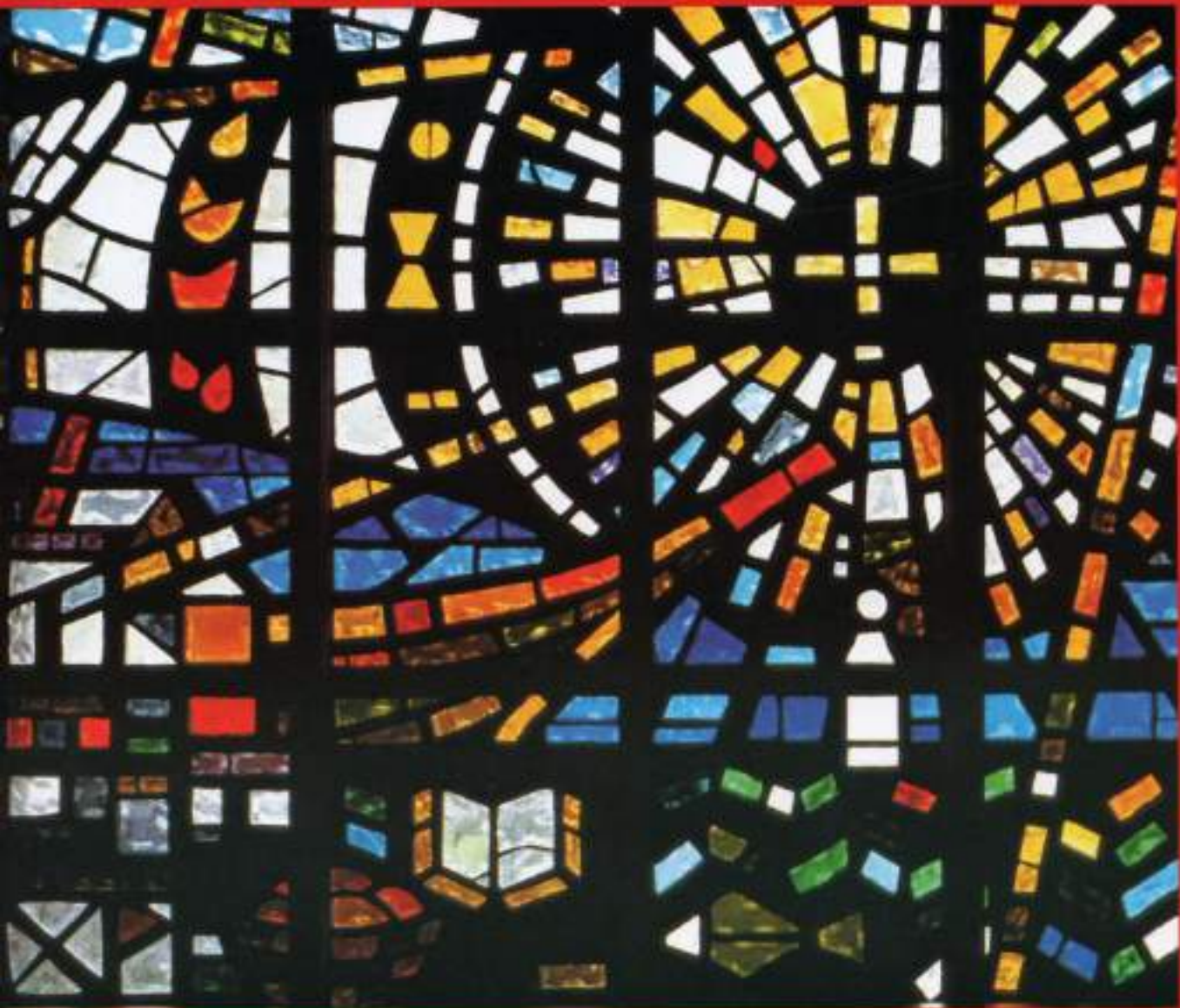


The Blessed Virgin Mary.

God and



the Church



Right — a panel of the Southern window representing the Crucifixion includes the red cock that crowed after Peter denied Christ and is a reminder for all to remain loyal. The skull, shown by 4 pieces of glass, represents the hill of Golgotha or Calvary outside Jerusalem, where Christ was

crucified. Golgotha means skull because of the shape of the hill and it was the place where criminals were condemned and put to death. The red seamless robe symbolizes the garment that Jesus wore and the unity that should be among Christian people.



Jesus is condemned to death.



Jesus meets his mother.



Southern window.



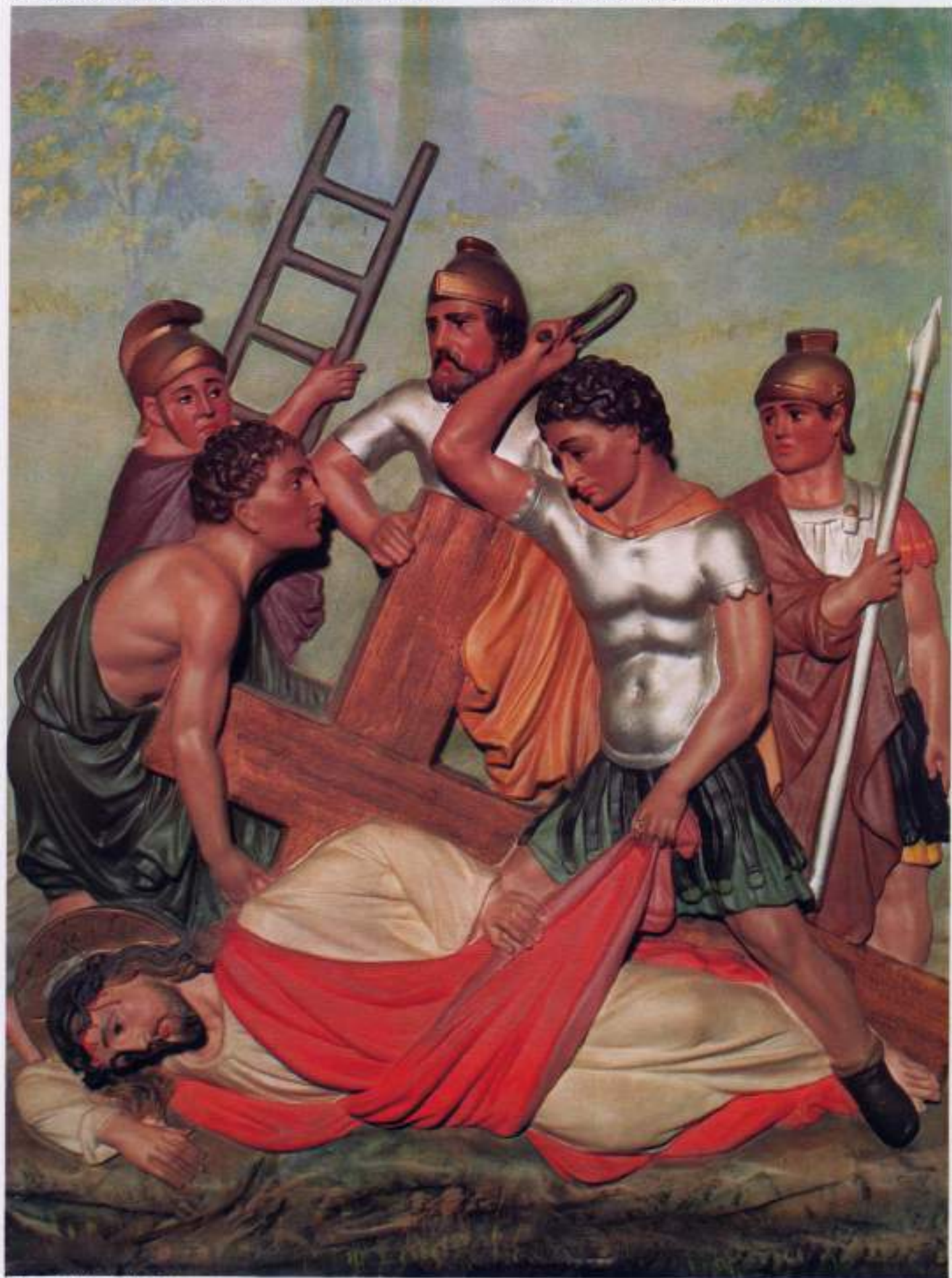
The Cyrenian helps Jesus.



Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

The rays of light and glory emanating from the empty tomb symbolize the triumph of Christ over

death and His resurrection. Two women stand in amazement, realizing that Christ has risen.



Jesus falls the third time.



Jesus is stripped of his clothing.

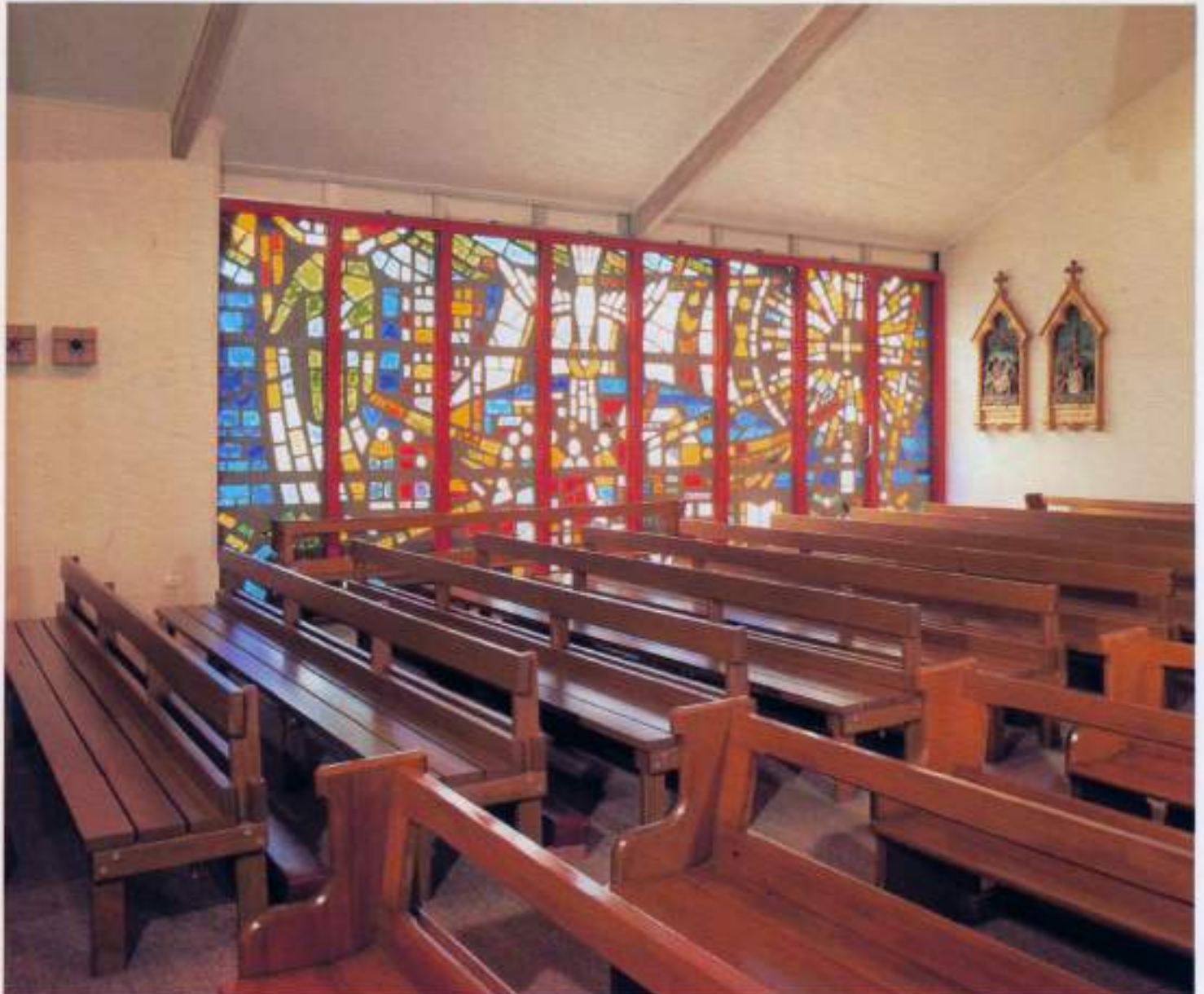


Jesus is nailed to the Cross.



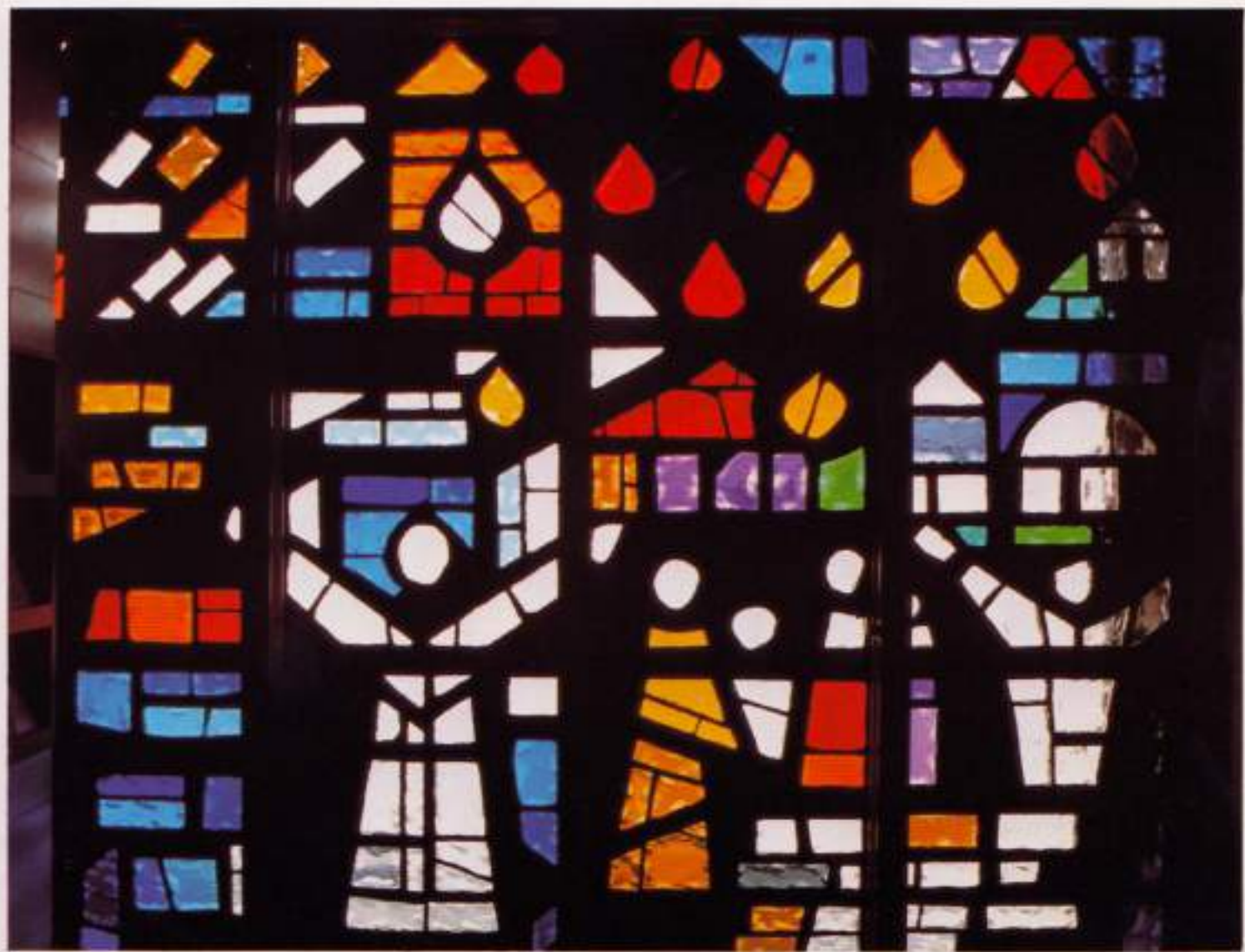
The window in the porch shows the scene of Pentecost. The tongues of fire flickering over the heads of the apostles show Christ's fulfilled promise that the Holy Spirit would be sent. People with outstretched arms receive His word and become the rejoicing people of God.

Monsignor J.P. Allman, Parish Priest.



The northern window, "God and the Church" symbolizes God the Father by a green hand, God the Son by a cross surrounded with rays of light

and glory, and God the Holy Spirit by a dove. The Church is represented by a boat and sail; people are entering it.



Jesus dies on the cross.



Jesus, in His mother's arms.

Memories

The Parish of Gippsland was first established in 1851, with a resident priest at Tarraville. Until a church was built in 1883 Mass was celebrated periodically in the Traralgon Court House within 200 metres of the present church. In 1916 Traralgon was created a separate parish and Father W.J. McLoughlin was appointed the first parish

priest. By 1934 the congregation had outgrown the existing church, the parish was free of debt and, with the generosity of a bequest of 3,200 pounds from Mr. John Dwyer, was able to erect a new church. This was completed a year later at a total cost of 6,500 pounds. Father J.E. O'Mara, the second pastor of St. Michael's was appointed in that same year. In 1954 he was created a Domestic Prelate by Pope Pius XII, an honour bestowed upon a much loved priest and respected person in the community. A plaque commemorating Monsignor O'Mara's Diamond Jubilee as a priest from 1918, is affixed to the wall of the new porch of the church, opened in 1978.

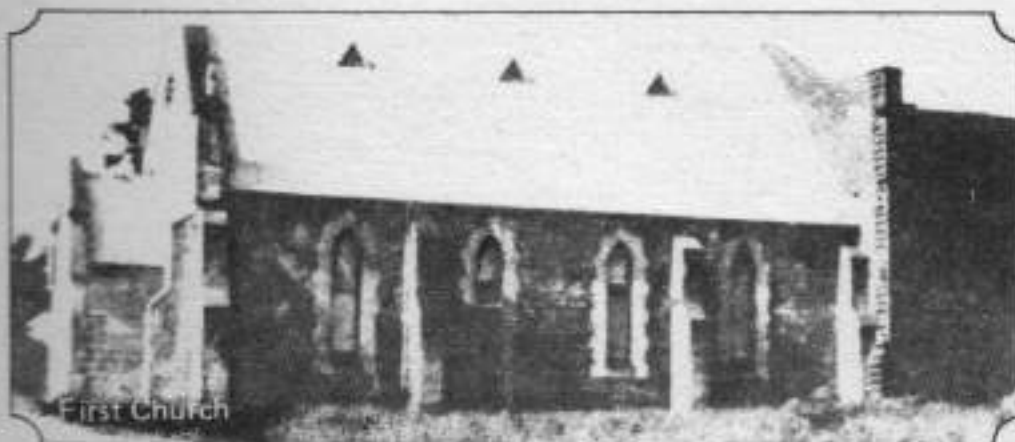


Blessing the Foundation Stone 1936



Under construction





First Church



Monsignor J.E. O'Mara, P.P.



Father W. McLoughlin



1936 - 1977



John Dwyer