



Church of the
Immaculate
Conception



LEARNING RESOURCES

*Image courtesy of Camus
Museum & Heritage Collection*

The Altar

Churches are buildings which are made to last. Using materials such as marble, granite and wood, craftsmen used their skills to create beautiful objects which would last for a long time.

Here is a photograph of the carved white high altar in our church and the beautiful five part stained glass window behind it. The altar was made of marble and was originally built and installed by Dublin sculptor, James Pearse for the opening of the church in September 1895. James Pearse was commissioned to build the three marble altars and the communion rails at a cost of £1,395.

The Altar

Tasks

Write

James Pearse also worked on the altar in Letterkenny Cathedral, he was known as a 'Monumental Sculptor'. His company was called James Pearse and Sons. His two sons, Willie and Padraig, worked with him.

This family played a very important part in Irish history. Can you find out about James and his two sons, Willie and Padraig and write a short piece describing what happened to each one of them?

Draw

Churches in the 19th century were built in the grand style using beautiful materials, however in the early 1960s (after Vatican 2) churches became plainer and priests turned to face the congregation when celebrating Mass.

Do you like the plain altar or the more ornate altar? Why? Draw your own altar.

Design

Choose an image and design a postcard of the church. You can use the altar, the stained glass windows, the wood carving on the roof or the outside of the building as inspiration.

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