

# The Parish Church Nuestra Señora del Pilar



Pilar de la Horadada



## THE PARISH

The Parish Church stands on the spot that was occupied in 1616 by a chapel dedicated to Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. That chapel had to be demolished in 1745, after being declared a ruin, to give way to the construction of the new church. In 1752 the construction work was complete and the parish was founded on the 7th January 1573.

But it wasn't until the 11th October of that same year that the bishop Gomez de Terán formally consecrated the church venerated to Nuestra Señora del Pilar and Sagrado Corazón de Jesús.

In 1975 once again the church had to be demolished due to its

bad state and the new one built in its place was consecrated on 9th October 1982 and blessed the next day by the bishop Pablo Barrachina.

## OUR LADY

The "pilareños" and "pilareñas" are great devotees of Our Lady, la Virgen del Pilar, something that can be witnessed every year at the floral offering when more than 40.000 flowers are offered to her.

On 11th October 1997 our Lady was declared Perpetual Mayoress of Pilar de la Horadada, which is symbolized by the staff of command that leans against her pillar. In 1999 on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of her patronship Nuestra Señora del Pilar was crowned by the bishop of Alicante-Orihuela, Victorio Oliver.

*The present image of the Virgin was created by the local sculptor José Sánchez Lozano in 1935. The statue replaces the original by Vicente Nicolás Salzillo that was destroyed during the Spanish Civil War.*



## GROUND FLOOR

The nave is surrounded by eight side chapels in which can be seen sculptures of great artistic importance.

### IMAGES

Starting the tour of the church on the right hand side of the nave the visitor will find:

**I. Nuestra Señora de los Dolores "La Dolorosa"**, by the sculptor Sánchez Lozano. It is a changeable vestment image that dates back to the beginning of the 40's. The image parades on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

**II. Cristo Crucificado**, created in Olot's Christian Art Workshop in 1974. Parades the Friday before Easter and on Maunday-Thursday and Good Friday.

**III. Corazón de Jesús**, created in Olot's Christian Art Workshop in 1942. This image precedes the procession that takes place the Sunday following the feast of "Cor-

pus Christi" with the children that have taken their 1st Communion.

**IV. "Virgen del Perpetuo Socorro"**, is a bas-relief work of Manuel Ribera Girona in 1951.

**V. Virgen del Carmen**, created by Sánchez Lozano in 1942.

**VI. Saint Rita**, created in Olot's Christian Art Workshop. Continuing the tour on the left hand side the visitor will find the following works of art:

**VII. Cristo de la Eucaristía**, created by Sánchez Lozano in 1949. It's a changeable vestment image that is taken out in procession on Good Friday.

**VIII. San Antonio de Padua**, by Sánchez Lozano, a changeable vestment image that later was reinforced with canvas by Antonio Liza, one of the author's pupils.

**IX. San José** created in Olot's Christian Art Workshop.

## THE ALTARPIECE

The nave culminates in the Altar and its impressive altarpiece, carved in box wood and polished to its natural colour by Antonio García Mengual in 1997.

This piece shows nine scenes of Jesus Christ's life: Annunciation, Nativity, His flight to Egypt, Jesus in front of the doctors, The Wedding in Canaan, Meeting in Calle de la Amargura, Crucifixion, Took Him from the cross and in the centre of the altarpiece, the Coronation of Maria. It's worth mentioning that the Virgin Mary appears in all the scenes.



I



II



III



IV



V



VI



VII



VIII

## UPPER FLOOR

The design of this modern church includes an upper floor that runs over the side chapels and the main entrance where the choir and side galleries can be found.

## IMAGES

On this floor, most of the images that are used in the Holy Week processions, are on display:

X. **Cristo Yacente**, work of the sculptor Manuel Ribera Girona dating to 1958 year in which it first used for the Good Friday Holy Burial Procession.

XI. **La Piedad** created in Olot's Christian Art Workshop in 1989, parades together with the "Cruz de los Labradores" on Good Friday.

XII. **Mujer Verónica de la Santa Faz**, sculpted by Víctor García Villalgordo in 1999. It's a changeable vestment image that takes part in the Procession of the Meeting in calle de la Amargura on Holy Wednesday and also on Good Friday.

XIII. **Jesús Nazareno**, created by Manuel Ribera Girona in 1957 takes part in the procession of the Holy Meeting in calle de la Amargura on Holy Wednesday and on Good Friday.

XIV. **San Antonio Abad**, created in Olot's Christian Art Workshop.

XV. **Virgen de la Inmaculada**, created in Olot's Christian Art Workshop.



## STAINED GLASS WINDOW

A recent incorporation is the majestic stained glass window that depicts the pelican, a Eucharistic symbol, which feeds its young with its own flesh. This work of art was created in 2007 by the local artists "Cristacolor" and consists of a classical leaded window with fired enamel and heat modelled glass



IX



X



XI



XII



XIII



XIV



XV



24 metres, was constructed to replace the earlier one that was destroyed by an earthquake in 1829.

It has a rectangular floor plan the structure of the tower is built of masonry and finished off with brickwork. This style is reminiscent of neomudejar.

## ARCHITECTURE

The church we see today was designed by the architect Antonio Orts Orts, with a rectangular floor plan with one nave, side chapels and aspe. It is a brick construction in keeping with the bell tower that had been conserved. On the main facade can be seen two latticed sections in front of which is exhibited a marblein copy of the image of the "Virgen del Pilar" by the sculptor Sánchez Lozano.

## THE CHURCH TOWER

The present church tower was built in 1899 and the 74000 bricks used in its construction were financed in part by the donations of the parishioners.

This tower, with a height of

## The top sections of the tower house the bells:

† "Ntra. Sra. del Pilar" (1880). This bell was cast in the square opposite the church and financed by the "pilareños". The bell had to be recast in 1989.

† "Ntra. Sra. de los Dolores" (1792) originated in the Ermita de Sierra Escalona, and was donated to the parish by the Marquis of Peñacerrada.

† "Josefa" Bell dedicated to Saint Joseph donated by a local family in 2006.

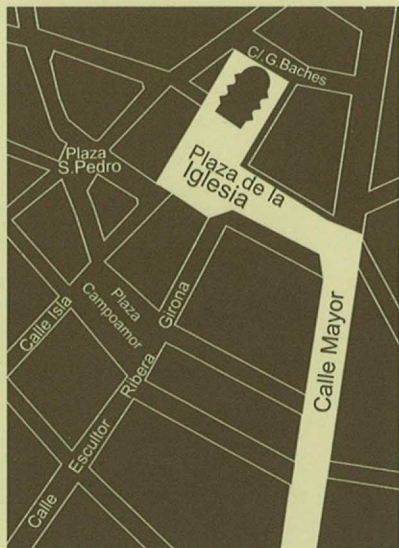
† "Paloma" Bell dedicated to the Virgin of the Paloma donated by a local family in 2007 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the parish church.

† The Carillon, a set of small bells inaugurated on 30th July 2006 and paid for by the Town Hall of Pilar de la Horadada, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the municipality and to pay homage to Arsenio Irigoyen.



## Parish Church Nuestra Señora del Pilar

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Tel. 96 535 10 31



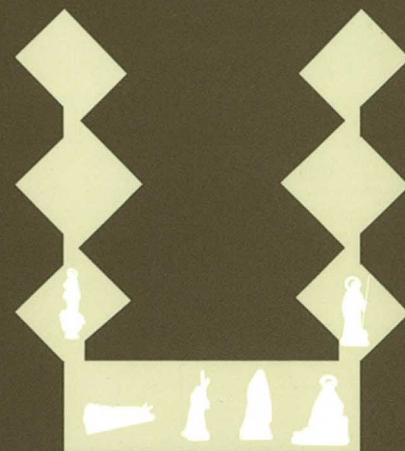
## Visiting hours

Monday to Saturday:  
From 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 a.m.  
Organised groups contact tel: 96 5351031

## Ground Floor



## First Floor



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