

Christopher John: *Maps become templates of meaning projecting a particular ethos, in this case, the Christian ethos.*

The Cosmos Map

The Eucharist The image of the bread and cup, central to our weekly worship. Jesus said: *This is my body. This is my blood. Do this in remembrance of Me*

The sky map is set at the turn of the Millennium, commemorating Christ's 2000 year incarnation on earth. A second star map is set for the sky over Melbourne at 4pm Sunday June 19 2005 when the new church was opened.

The Ichthus The fish image represents Christians seeking the knowledge and love of God. *Teach us good Lord to see Thee more clearly, to love Thee more dearly, to follow Thee more nearly, day by day.* (Richard of Chichester) This image appears 7 times and becomes more complete as it approaches the cross representing Christ's sacrifice for us.

The lines holding the glass are circular (the God who always was and is), and triangular (the God who is one God and three persons, the God who is Trinity).

The urban maps

Robert Hoddle's map of Melbourne with its firm rectangular panels, represents the world of economy and 'busyness', leaving little time or space to reach to the Cosmos and the ways of God. Here the colonists named the streets after kings, queens and explorers. This is the ever-present world of Hoddle Street traffic and the traffic in our own lives. Take some time to reflect on 'busyness' in your own life.

The natural maps

Here there are **Aboriginal maps of Abbotsford, Collingwood and including Birrarung Marr and other aspects of aboriginal culture.** The golden Yarra River, source of life and food for all, meanders through the third part of the vertical triptych.

Here the lines that hold the glass are soft and fluid: circles and irregular shapes, like the earth itself. This is metaphor for the River of Life, flowing through the Holy City and also a metaphor for our journey in the life of the Spirit right now.

Tree of Life - Holy Spirit

Christopher John, the creator of the windows, sees the Tree of Life as a metaphor for the Holy Spirit, the life-giving essence of God in the world right now. The Tree of Life (Axis Mundi) links all three parts of the vertical triptych of the tower window, as a conduit linking heaven, earth and the 'underworld'.

The sustaining Tree of Life

The tree of life: the cross of Christ. Christ's death on the cross has cosmic significance extending beyond personal salvation:

It sustains all things as the support of the universe, the base of the whole inhabited world, and the axis of the earth. It exists in its totality in every thing and in every place. (Pseudo Hippolytus)

The Holy Spirit

Jesus explains: *But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.* (John 14:26)

We continually experience the Holy Spirit as both a divine counterpart to whom we call, and a divine presence in which we call. (Jürgen Moltmann)

The Holy Spirit is the Go-Between God, working anonymously on the inside; the beyond in the midst. (John Taylor)

Find us:

<https://www.facebook.com/stphilipscollingwood>
www.stphilipscollingwood.org.au

Street Address

St Philip's Anglican Church Collingwood
146-148 Hoddle Street
Abbotsford VIC 3067

Tree of Life

God of Holy Dreaming, Great Creator Spirit
St Philip's Collingwood acknowledges that this church is built on land for which the Kulin Nations are the traditional custodians.

Lead us on Great Spirit



Take time to reflect on the place of God in your life today.

Let the windows guide you into thoughtfulness and prayer.



Colours of the windows

White: the light-filled Tree of Life, Holy Spirit.

Deep Cobalt Blues of the cosmos

Burnt Sienna of maps of Collingwood, Abbotsford

Viewing the windows

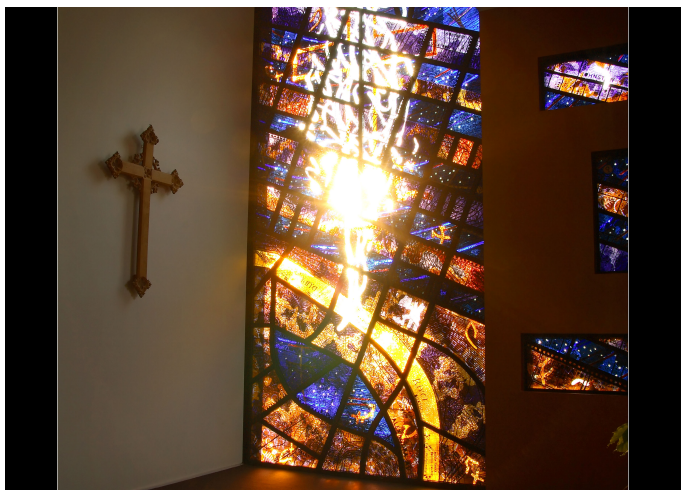
The time of day and the weather will show the windows in very different lights: Morning - light and airy; Afternoon - fire and grandeur. Come and see!

Small square windows

These windows show local streets and buildings of Collingwood and Abbotsford. Pray for those who live and work here.

Found objects

Christopher John searched for local objects for the windows. Look for tiny birthing callipers from Epworth Hospital, a coke can, fossils and shells.



Christopher John, Glass artist

Rather than depict the Tree of Life as one of bark and leaves I have abstracted the image to one of vital energy: fire-like in the way it flickers, dances and leaps. ...The Tree of Life acts as a lightning rod or conduit for the Holy Spirit, conducting it down to the world around us.

References

Bak, H. *The Tree of Life: An Engaging Vision: Saint Philip's Window by Christopher John*. Stained Glass, v. 104, no. 2 (Summer 2009), pp. 116-121, ill. 1067-8867

John, C. *Themes and Ideas for the St Philip's window* Unpublished paper, February 2007



St Philip's Christian community

We are a diverse community comprised of people who live and work across Melbourne and beyond. We meet for worship on Sundays at 10am. We welcome you to worship the great Creator God with us.

Contemplation

Take a few moments to be silent and allow God to speak into your heart. Allow yourself a moment of wonder before these beautiful windows inviting you to experience the beauty, love and vitality of God.