

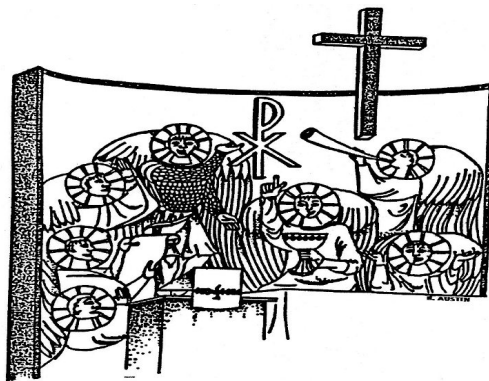
A Description of the Reredos written by Canon Rev. Jenö Kohner

The Reredos was made by Mr. Sidney Goldsmith of St. Genevieve, and a member of St. Thomas Beckett Roman Catholic church. Mr. Goldsmith is a film producer with the national film Board of Canada. He studied at the Ontario College of Art, and has had one man shows at Robertson's Gallery in Ottawa, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and other galleries. He is represented in collections of the National Gallery in Ottawa and the Art Gallery of greater Victoria. He has exhibited with the Royal Canadian Academy, Canadian biennials and other exhibitions. This Reredos is his largest work to date

The artist's instructions were to show the Patron Saint of the church and with the first plan of the church this was to be done on panels on the walls of the church. However, due to costs the original plan was abandoned, and the reredos became the obvious place on which to represent the Patronal Saint. He was shown the hymn "Christ the Fair Glory of the Holy Angels" as poetry that might be of help, an album of the Cathedral Church of Saint Michael in Coventry England and encyclopedia articles.

The reredos is plaster bas-relief, a very ancient art form, going back beyond the time when Moses was in Egypt.

In the center is the Chai-Rho symbol; the symbol Constantine is said to have seen the night before the Battle of the, Mulvian Bridge, October 29, 312 and when he heard the words, "in this sign conquer". In the morning he ordered his troops to paint the holy sign on their shields. The Greek letter "Chai" represents our CH sound, the "P" is the Greek "R" sound. Thus the X and P represent the first three letters of the holy name of Christ (as IHS represents the first three letters of Jesus).



St. Michael, Capt. Of the Armies of God is shown with sword sheathed, with his hand assuring us that the Christ is that is the God - Man we should follow as he does, and he is the true Captain and Victor.

Rafael the Archangel of healing is shown holding the chalice, The body and blood of our Lord which we receive in the sacrament are called by Ignatius of Antioch the medicine of immortality; with one finger he points to the symbol of Christ, from whom comes healing of our bodies, minds and souls, who restores us and fills us with the New Life.

Gabriel the Archangel holds a trumpet - he is the angel of the Annunciation - "Behold thou shalt conceive...", and the one who appeared to the shepherds to announce to them the Holy Birth. Angels are the messengers of God, hence their wings.

On the lower right corner is an angel with hands apart, the ancient position of their hands for intercession, or lifting up to God those in need; Representing the holy Guardian Angels. Jesus says of them that they always behold the face of his Father.

On the left three angels are shown, two in attitudes of adoration, they have not sinned so can perfectly praise God, while one angel holds a scroll, reminding us of angelic inspiration in the writing of the Bible.

Through this work it is hoped that the congregation will ever be reminded that worship is not a private matter, that we are not alone, but we worship in the glorious company of angels and archangels in their several orders, saying with them the song "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most High."