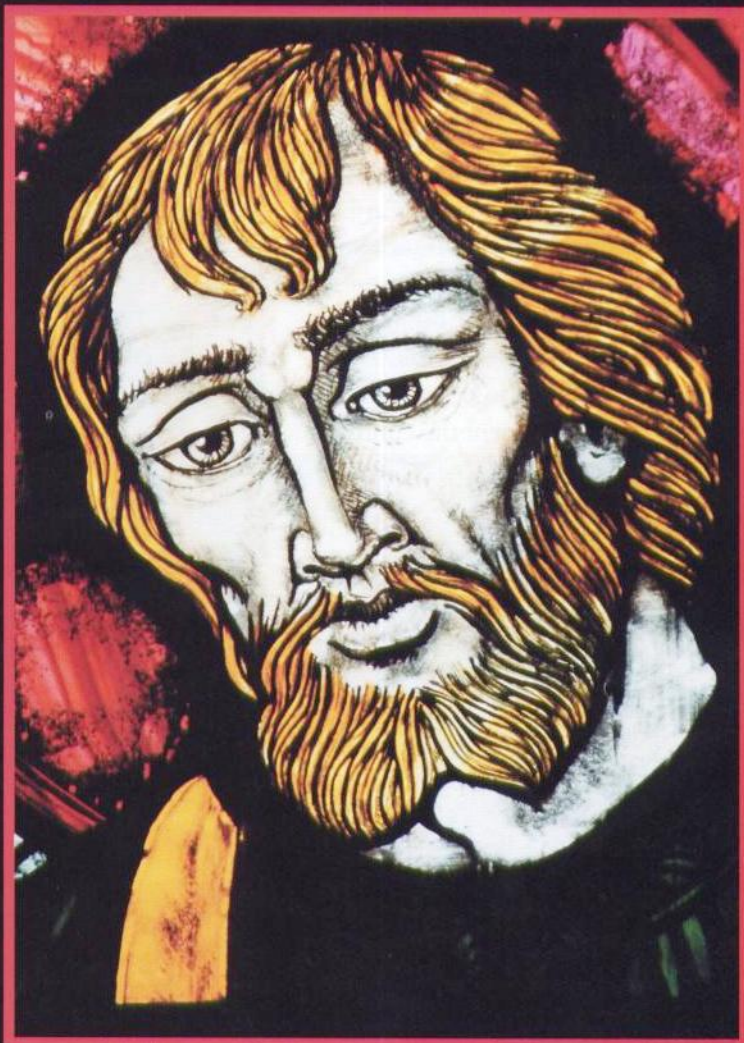
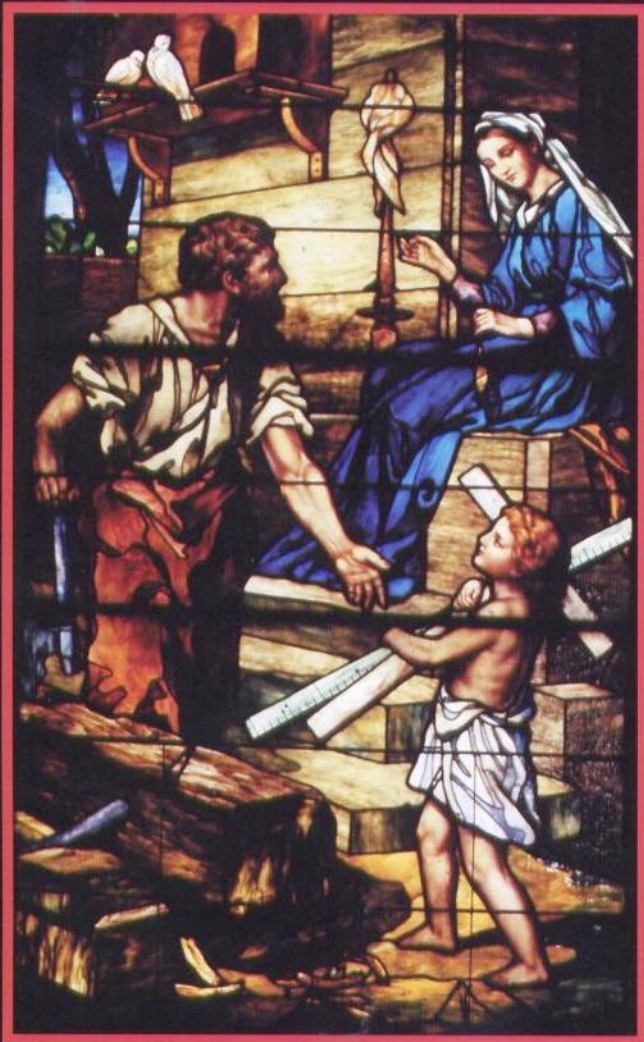


STAINED GLASS

Summer 2003



A magazine appertaining to fine glazing
and calculated to stimulate an appreciation
of architectural possibilities in the

Ancient Craft

QUARTERLY OF THE STAINED GLASS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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- Confessions of a Clergyman
- *Book of Revelations*

Presenting contemporary and historical architectural stained glass since 1906

St. Ninian's Catholic Church

GOUROCK, SCOTLAND

by Ken Ryan

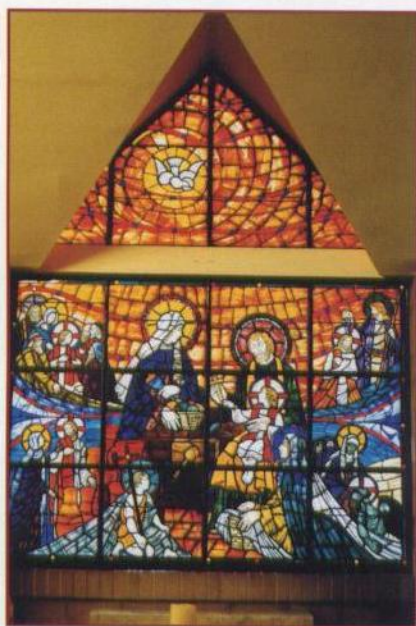
In 2002, The Abbey Stained Glass Studios, having completed a number of prestigious stained glass projects in Scotland, were approached by Monsignor Thomas Monaghan on behalf of St. Ninian's Catholic Church in Gourock, Scotland. Mgr. Thomas Monaghan was interested in two new major stained glass windows for the Transept Gables of his church. The artwork would have to be traditional as it was to complement the church dedicated to St. Ninian, which was built in 1879. Expansion projects were carried out in this traditional style church some twenty years ago for a visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II in 1982.

The project began in earnest when Ken Ryan, the managing director of The Abbey Stained Glass Studios, visited St. Ninian's Church to meet with Mgr. Thomas

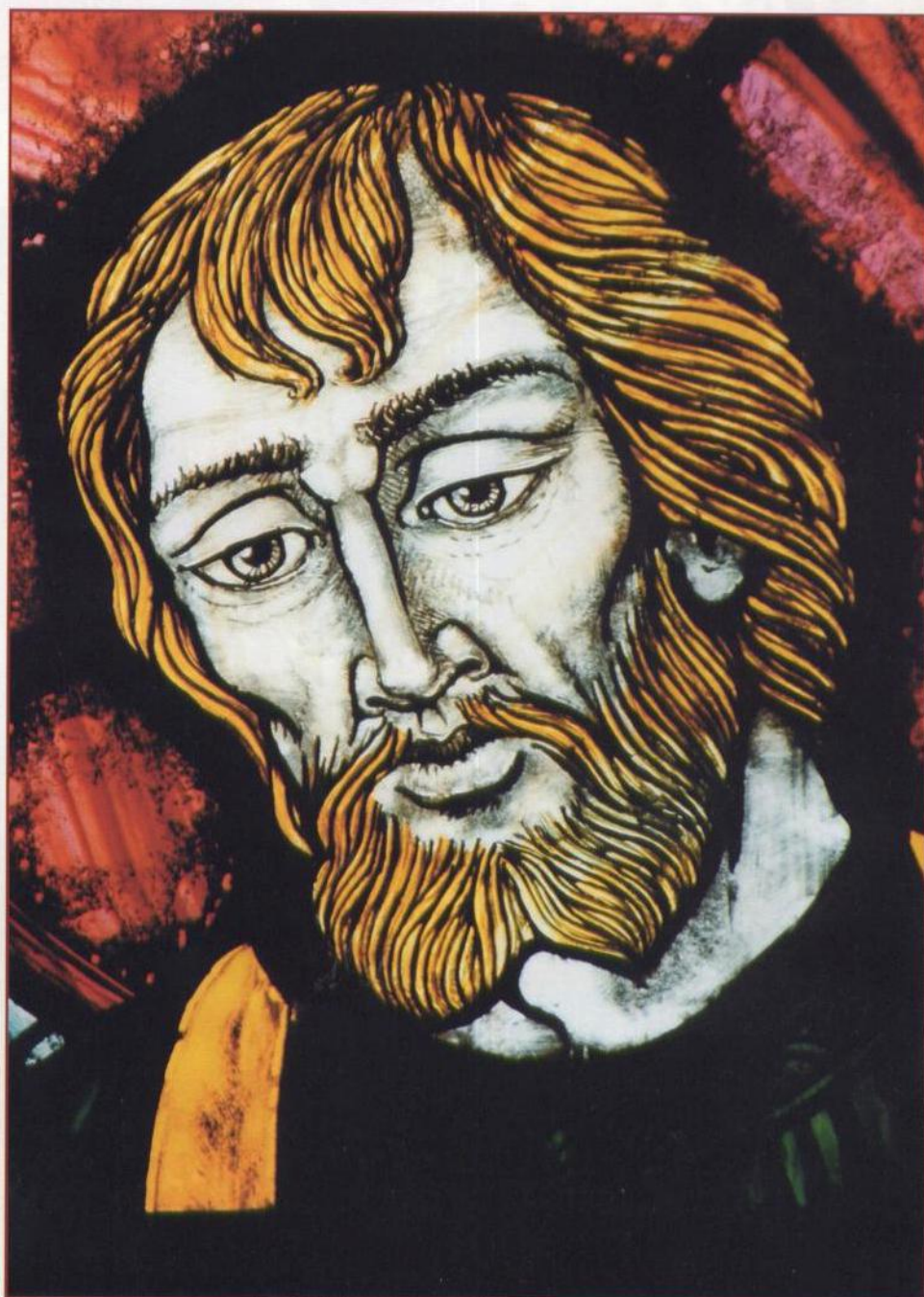
Monaghan and members of the church committee to decide how to proceed with the artwork.

The Transept Gable Windows measure approximately twelve feet

wide by fifteen feet high. The windows have a concrete beam running through them at about ten feet high; thus, the major part of the artistic detail would have to be fitted under this beam. The shape gave us



The Holy Family



Detail of St. Joseph from The Holy Family



Detail of Mary from *The Holy Family*

quite an artistic challenge as the window was so wide. At this stage, our senior artist, Kevin Kelly, was called upon to carry out preliminary designs.

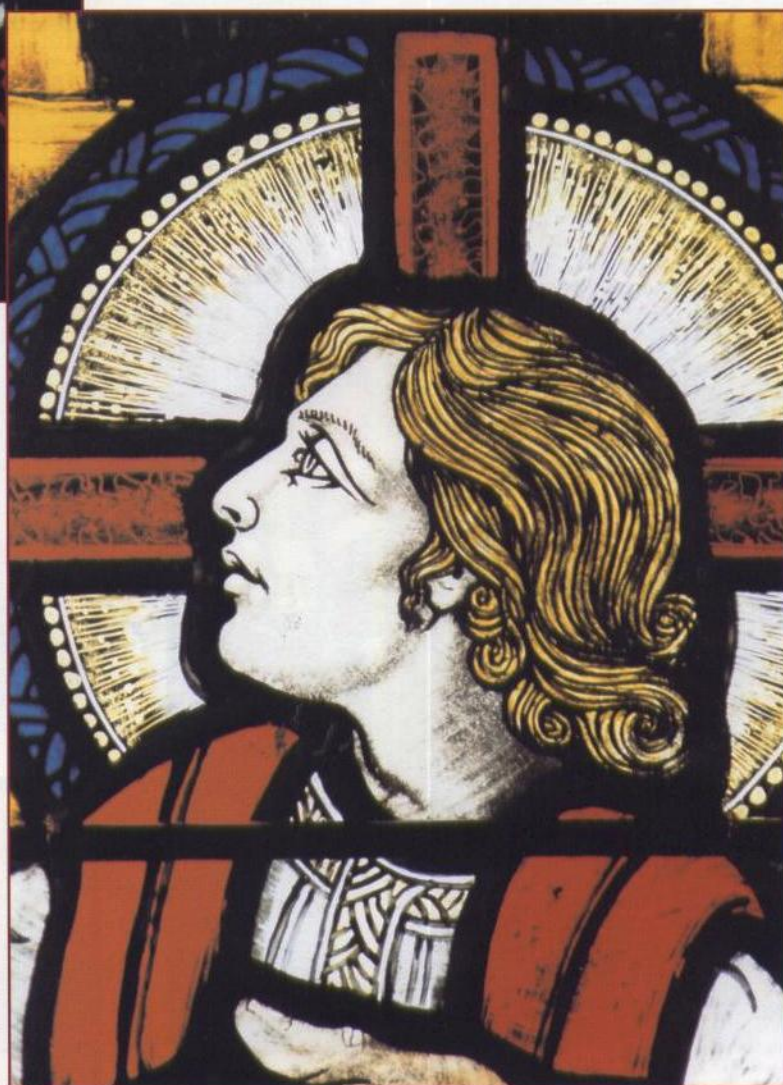
The main themes chosen were *The Holy Family* on the brighter transept of the church, with *The Nativity* on the opposite, darker transept. Kevin Kelly worked up the designs in accordance with his brief but found that he had too much vacant space at the extremes of the designs.

In both of these designs, Kevin decided to add the intricate, detailed artwork to complement the main elements of the subject mat-

ter. In *The Nativity* window, the central design shows Our Lady, St. Joseph and the newborn Child Jesus with the Shepherds at the base. To the left of the window is depicted *The Annunciation*, at which time St. Gabriel announced to Our Lady that she would become the Mother of God. *The Visitation* is

underneath and shows Our Lady going to visit her elderly cousin Elizabeth, who, unexpectedly, in later years had become pregnant. Our Lady then spends the final three months of Elizabeth's confinement with her until she gives birth to a son John (John the Baptist).

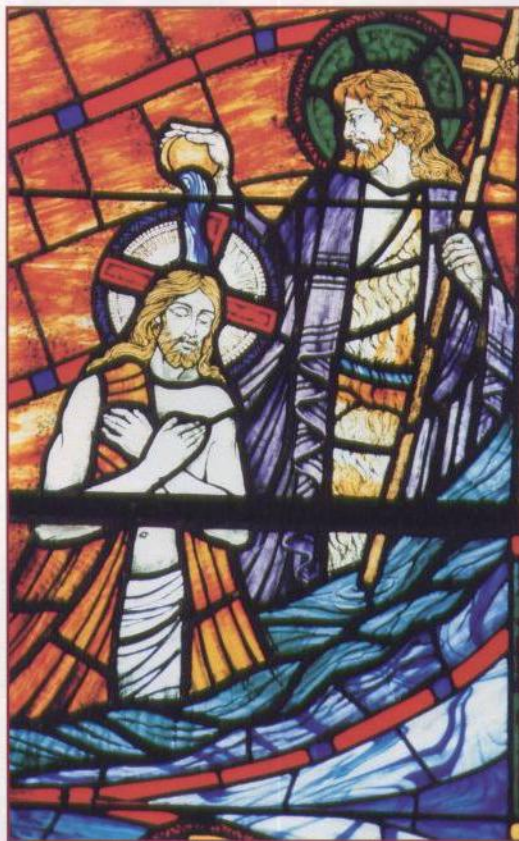
On the right hand side, we show *The Adoration of the Magi*, in which the three kings come bearing gifts to the stable where Jesus is born. Underneath we show *The Flight into Egypt*, depicting the Child Jesus being taken into Egypt to escape death by King Herod, who ordered all male children under two years of age to be killed.



Detail of Jesus from *The Holy Family*



Annunciation



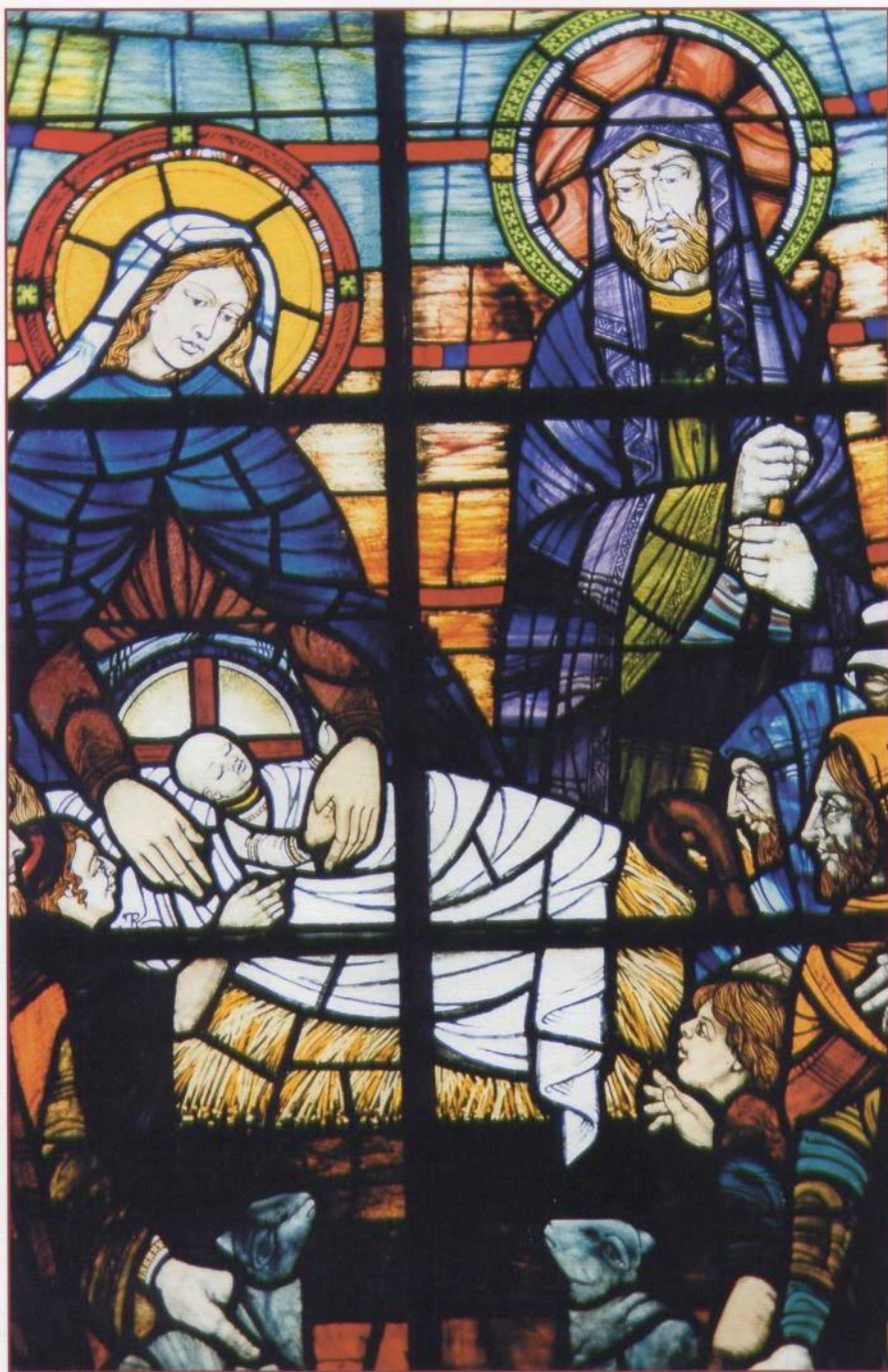
John Baptizing Christ



*The Finding of the Child Jesus
in the Temple*



Adoration of the Magi



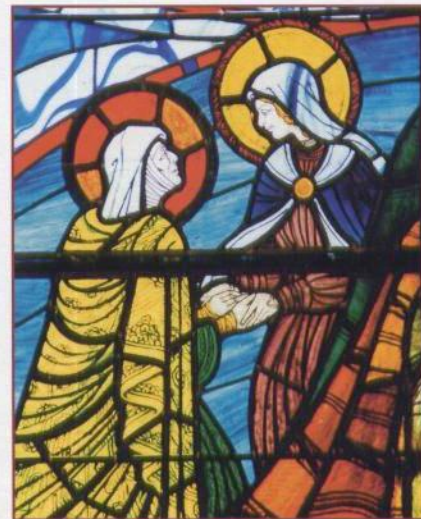
The Nativity

Above *The Nativity* we show *The Star of Bethlehem* in a night sky. The daylight on this transept of the church is diffused by a building immediately opposite, and it darkens down this window, thus mimicking a darkness which makes this whole night scene more realistic.

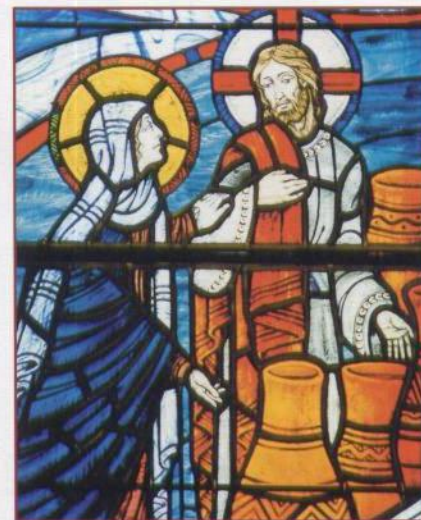
On the brighter gable, we show as the main theme *The Holy Family*. Our Lady is spinning wool, and the artist's selection of streaky glasses shows rich, multi-colored threads.

St. Joseph is holding a simple crucifix, which has just been manufactured by the Child Jesus in the carpenter's workshop. They are accompanied by John the Baptist as a young boy with his mother St. Elizabeth, who is, of course, a cousin of Our Lady.

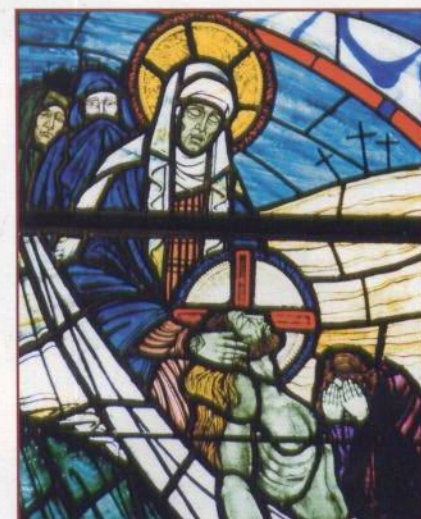
To the left-hand side of *The Holy Family* we show *The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple* as He confounds the doctors and old men with his knowledge. Immediately underneath we show *The Wedding*



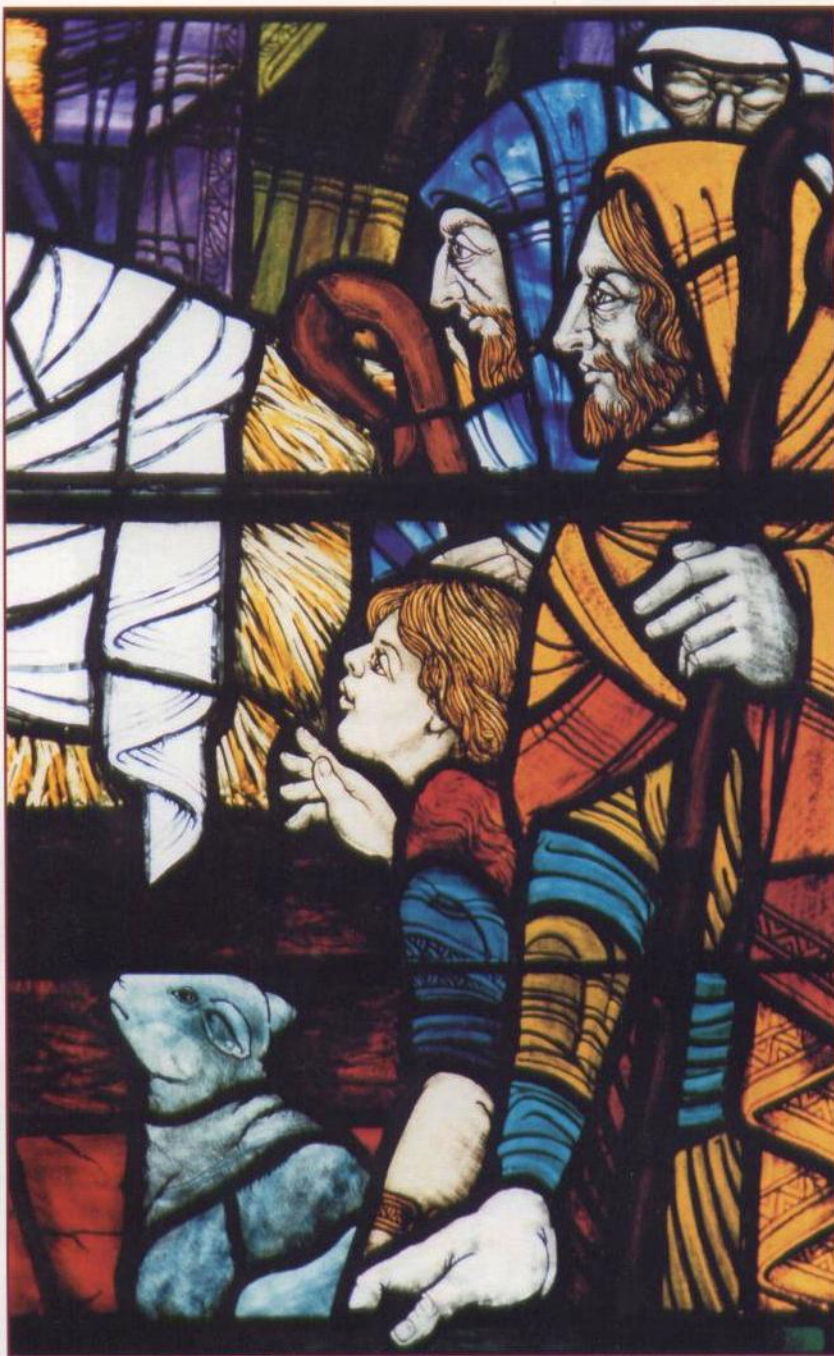
The Visitation



The Wedding Feast



The Pieta Christ and His Mother



The Nativity (detail)

Feast of Cana, where Christ is changing the water in the vats into wine. On the right hand side, we show *John the Baptist Baptising Christ*, while underneath in the bottom right hand corner we show *The Pieta*, the crucified Christ with his mother Our Lady bending over him tearfully.

In the triangular space above this window, we show *The Holy Spirit* with rays emanating all round. This again has been cleverly designed by Kevin Kelly through the careful

selection of warm streaky radiating amber antique glasses.

These stained glass windows were made up in a series of manageable panels, about thirty-six inches square. First of all, we fabricated aluminum frames made up of inch-and-a-half T-bars one quarter of an inch thick, back to back. We sandblasted the framing when it was made up and painted it matte black.

This

gave us a great advantage as we were able to fit the stained glass loosely into the new frames and inspect them in our studios. The artist could then carry out all the minor changes that he wanted to do in order to improve the overall artistic effect.

The new aluminum framing and stained glass windows were soon on their way to Scotland across the Irish Sea with our team of three on-site craftsmen headed by John Power. The framing was set up

inside the existing window openings in St. Ninian's Catholic Church, and the panels were fitted into the frames.

The following Sunday, St. Ninian's Church was completely different during Masses. The congregation could not believe the transformation that had taken place and the new prayerful, warm atmosphere that had been introduced into the church. Indeed, some of the people had tears in their eyes when they beheld these artistic masterpieces in stained glass. These windows were inspected closely by the people of Gourock and they, together with Monsignor Thomas Monaghan, gave their immediate approval.

Below: Abbey Stained Glass senior artist Kevin Kelly (left) and studio Managing Director Ken Ryan.



Ken Ryan, Managing Director, and the artists and craftsmen of The Abbey Stained Glass Studios are proud to have been associated with this prestigious stained glass project in St. Ninian's Catholic Church, and they derive great satisfaction from their combined efforts. Ken Ryan may be contacted at: The Abbey Stained Glass Studios, 18 Old Kilmainham, Dublin 8. Ireland. Telephone: 011-353-1-6777285.





FOUNDED IN 1944

The Abbey Stained Glass Studios

SPECIALISTS IN ECCLESIASTICAL WORK

Designers and Manufacturers of Stained Glass

Restoration of Old and Damaged Stained Glass

- Stormglazing
- Dalle de Verre
- Opus Sectile
- Bronze Ventilators
- Glass Etching and Sandblasting
- Stations of the Cross

Recent Church Stained Glass Contracts at:

Ballaghaderreen Cathedral, Enniscorthy Cathedral, Tuam Cathedral, Killarney Cathedral, Carlow Cathedral, Loughrea Cathedral, Monaghan Cathedral, Cavan Cathedral, Pro-Cathedral, St. Patrick's Maynooth, Black Abbey Kilkenny, Donnycarney, Ballygall Road, James' Street, Assisi House, Cabinteely, Arklow, Newtownpark Avenue, Lavagh, Upperchurch, Drombane, Mary Immaculate College, Drumcollogher, Raharney, Looscaun, Maree, Rossaveal, Furbo, St. Mary's College, Began, Ballyshannon, Ballyhaise, Virginia, Bantry, Rathnew, Milltown, Co. Kerry, Freshford, Monastervan, Castlecomer, Miltownpass, Clonmel, Leixlip, Belclare, The Neale, Dalkey, Mount Sion, Allenwood, The Lough, Cork, Avoca, Ballymote, Tynagh, Tallaght, Mervue, Bluebell, Mercy International, Ballynacarrigy, Athy, Partry, Cashel, Bruff, Ferns, Our Lady's Island, Cloonfad, Ballon, Bullaun, Broomfield, Blarney, Newtowncunningham, Rathkeale, Drumkerrin, Crimlin, Lismire, Foxford, Callow, Kilkerrin, Killasser, Ballycahill, Carraigh na bhFear, Tubberclair, Kanturk, Mount Bolus, Carran, Corofin, Levittstown, Jordantown, Leighlinbridge, Manorhamilton, Termonfechin, Dooradoyle, Doohamlet, Clontibret, Anyalla, Curry, Bandon, Monagea, Adare, Foxrock, Shanagolden, Newcastle West, Darndale, St. John of God, Stillorgan, Lettermacaward, Achill Sound, Saleen, Franciscan Friary, Cork

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**The Abbey
Stained Glass
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