

# 8

ENGLISH

## INFORMATION BOOKLETS

BASÍLICA DE LA  
SAGRADA  
FAMÍLIA

### Glory façade, Baptistery and Chapel of Penitence and the Sacrament

*On either side of the  
Glory façade, there will  
be a chapel. In the east,  
the Chapel of Penitence  
and the Sacrament,  
and in the west, the  
Baptistery Chapel.*



Close-up of the  
Glory façade in  
a model of the  
Sagrada Família.

# The Glory façade

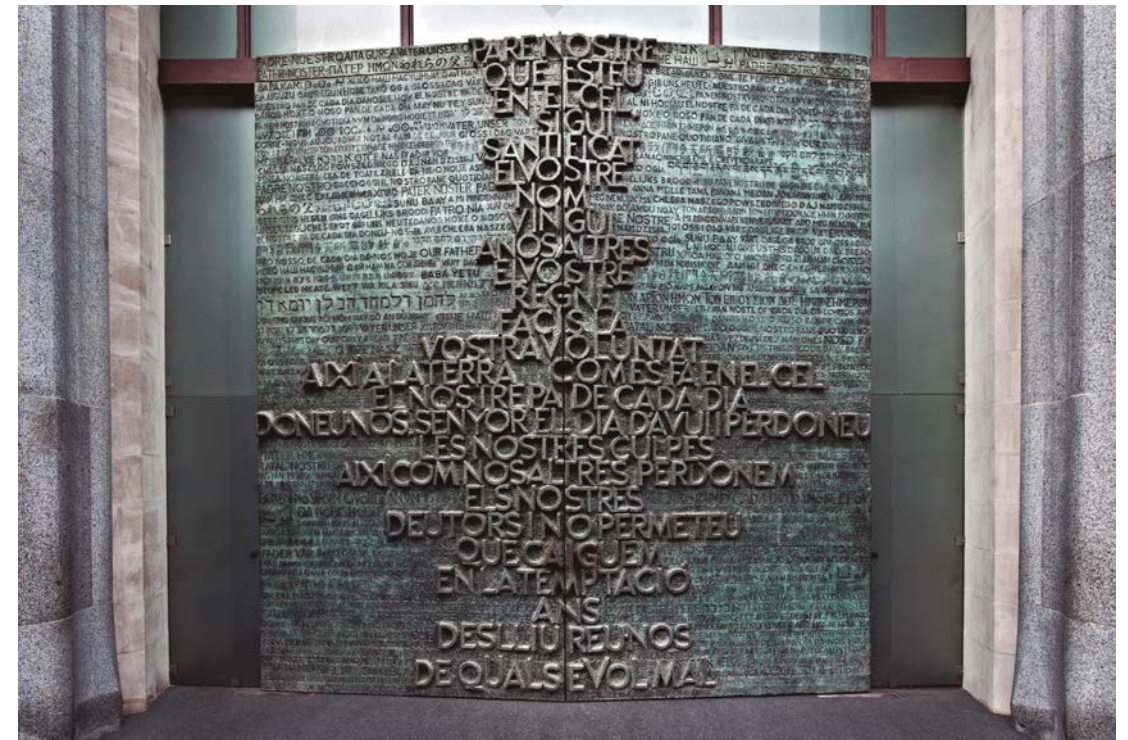
While the Nativity façade is dedicated to Jesus' arrival in the world and his childhood and the Passion façade remembers the last days of the life of the Son of God, the Glory façade could only be focused on his glory.

The main façade, or the Glory façade, located on Carrer de Mallorca, faces the sea. It will show the history of humanity from Adam and Eve through the Last Judgement, as well as Jesus' teachings, which illuminate men and women on eternal life and glory. Studying Gaudí's volumetric model and plan for the iconography and symbolism on this façade has made it possible for work to continue on the project for this façade. Like those dedicated to the birth

and passion of Jesus, it will also have a great narthex and four bell towers, in this case dedicated to the apostles Andrew, Peter, Paul and James the Greater. Unlike the other two façades, however, here the whole towers don't extend all the way down to the foundations. Only the inner half of the towers, which enclose the naves, will go all the way down, while the other half, on the street side, begins roughly thirty metres up, resting on eight columns on the property line of the Basilica plot. These columns represent the eight beatitudes (a representation that also extends to the vaults that support them) recounted by Jesus as the basis of a happy, spiritually full life (blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are those who mourn, blessed are the meek, blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, blessed are the merciful, blessed are the pure of heart, blessed are the peacemakers, blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness).



**Model of the Glory façade, by Gaudí.**



## The great narthex

To enter, there are seven bronze doors, created by Josep Maria Subirachs. Each one represents a sacrament (from left to right: baptism, anointing of the sick, holy orders, Eucharist, confirmation, marriage and penance). The central door, 4.7 metres tall and 5 metres wide, represents the Eucharist. The centre of the door features the full Lord's Prayer in Catalan and the rest of the door is filled with the phrase "Give us this day our daily bread" in fifty different languages. The door handles are the letters A and G (for Antoni Gaudí) in the phrase "que cAiGuem en la temptació" (lead us not into temptation) from the Lord's Prayer. The phrases on the doors of the other sacraments are the other petitions from the Lord's Prayer.

## The central door on the Glory façade, by Josep Maria Subirachs.

The columns on either side of the doors represent the seven corporal works of mercy (to feed the hungry, to give water to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless, to visit the sick, to ransom the captive and to bury the dead) and the seven spiritual works of mercy (to instruct the ignorant, to counsel the doubtful, to admonish the sinners, to bear patiently those who wrong us, to forgive offences, to comfort the afflicted and to pray for the living and the dead). The seven outer columns that hold up the narthex will have representations of the seven gifts (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord), the seven cardinal sins (pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath and sloth) and the seven cardinal virtues to protect against them (chastity, temperance, charity, diligence, patience, kindness and humility).



**Upper section of the narthex**

As per the original model, this portico or monumental narthex will be topped with sixteen great hyperboloid lanterns crowned with cones. The lanterns will be on two planes: seven lanterns on the first and nine on the second, ascending up towards the centre of the façade, to eighty metres. The ones on the first level, closest to the street, correspond to the seven days of creation, and the others, to the nine choirs or groups of angels praising the glories of God.

Six of the seven bronze doors on the Glory façade, with the petitions of the Lord's Prayer.

**The tower walls**

Behind the narthex there will be a wall that holds up the towers, and windows between the two central towers. These windows will show, on the first level, the history of humanity, starting with Adam and Eve, and, on the second level, the three covenants between God and man: Noah's covenant (symbol of hope, applying to all of humanity), the Covenant at Sinai of Moses (for the people of Israel and a symbol of faith) and the covenant of Jesus (who, in giving his life for all humanity, symbolises eternal life). This final alliance will be represented by the House of Nazareth, with Jesus and Joseph working, as a symbol of how work dignifies a person, with the trades on either side on the outside of the towers. Further up, the Virgin Mary, Jesus Christ at the Last Judgement, and the Holy Spirit in the upper window, and above them all, God the Creator. On either side of the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ, Heaven with saints and angels. The vaults of the narthex will be made up of twenty skylights, with four from

the bell towers joining the sixteen on the narthex itself. These vaults will feature representations of the seven days of creation and the eight beatitudes. The façade will be completed with clouds on the bottom part of the towers and on the surface of the lanterns, which Gaudí included in his plaster model using wire balls. On the clouds, very easily visible, will be the Credo ("Credo in unum Deum Patrem Omnipotentem, Creatorem caeli et terrae...").

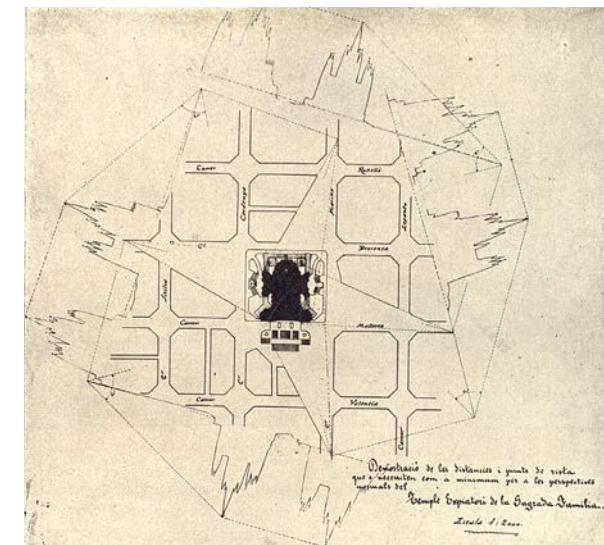
**The staircase in Gaudí's project**

On the bottom part of the façade, to bridge the four-metre height gap between Carrer de Provença and Carrer de Mallorca, Gaudí designed a staircase that would lead from the level of the inside of the Temple to Carrer de Mallorca. So, an elevated bridge will be built over this street, with traffic underneath. In the distribution of the various symbolic elements Gaudí established for this façade, the architect put the exultation of Glory at the top (the purpose of the façade), but he did not forget purgatory,

which will be just above the trades and just below Heaven, or hell, which he put below the level of the Temple floor, on Carrer de Mallorca.



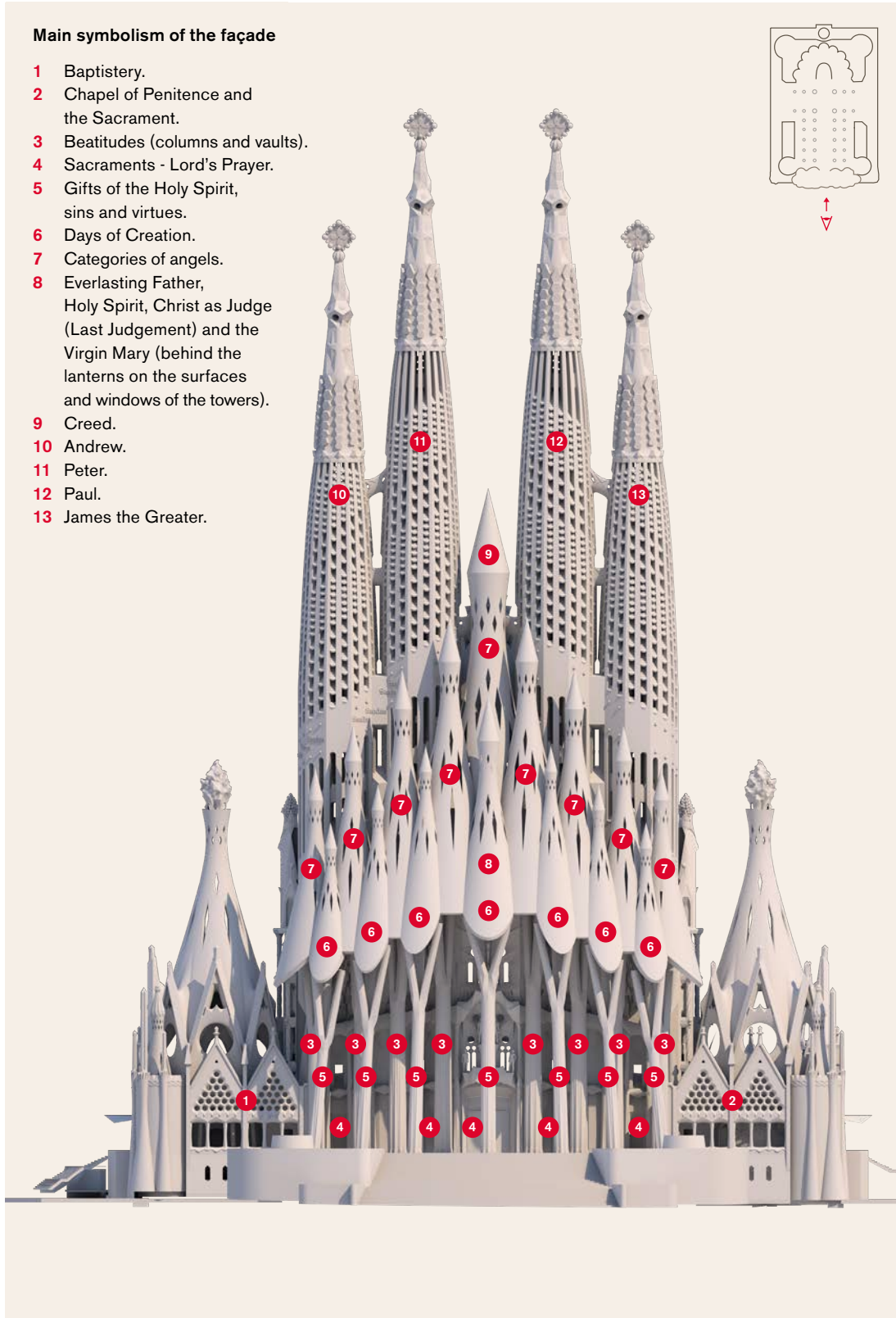
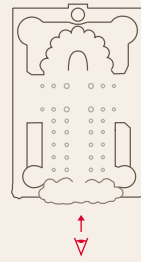
Close-up of the handles on the central door, with the letters A and G highlighted in reference to Antoni Gaudí.



Plan (c. 1908) showing the distances necessary for normal perspectives of the Sagrada Família, indicating where Gaudí wanted the staircase for the main façade.

**Main symbolism of the façade**

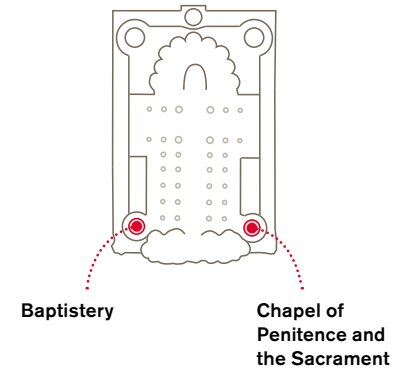
- 1 Baptistry.
- 2 Chapel of Penitence and the Sacrament.
- 3 Beatitudes (columns and vaults).
- 4 Sacraments - Lord's Prayer.
- 5 Gifts of the Holy Spirit, sins and virtues.
- 6 Days of Creation.
- 7 Categories of angels.
- 8 Everlasting Father, Holy Spirit, Christ as Judge (Last Judgement) and the Virgin Mary (behind the lanterns on the surfaces and windows of the towers).
- 9 Creed.
- 10 Andrew.
- 11 Peter.
- 12 Paul.
- 13 James the Greater.



# The Baptistry and Chapel of Penitence and Sacrament

These chapels will be located on the same level as the Glory façade. Looking at the main door from the street, to the left we find the Baptistry, where baptisms will be held, in front of which Gaudí wanted a waterspout evocative of the four rivers of the garden of Eden, reminding us that baptism leads to eternal life. On the right, we have the Chapel of Penitence and the Sacrament, in front of which Gaudí placed a gas lamp or censor, symbolising the fire of purification. The architectural structure of these chapels will be similar to that of the Chapel of the Assumption, but larger in size.

**The Baptistry, like the Chapel of Penitence and the Sacrament, will be structurally similar to the Chapel of the Assumption.**



***In front of the Baptistry and Chapel of Penitence and the Sacrament, Gaudí placed a gas lamp and a censor, symbols of eternal life and the fire of purification, respectively.***

# Glossary

**Beatitudes** The blessings Jesus Christ recounted in the Sermon on the Mount, each beginning with the words *blessed are*.

**Cardinal sins** Each of the seven sins (pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath and sloth) that ecclesiastical tradition considers to directly lead to other vices or sins. They are contrary to the seven cardinal virtues.

**Cardinal virtues** Each of the seven virtues (chastity, temperance, charity, diligence, patience, kindness and humility) that protect against the cardinal sins.

**Gifts of the Holy Spirit** Divine gifts that allow humankind to complete and perfect the virtues of the Holy Spirit in order to reach salvation. There are seven, grouped into those that direct intellect (wisdom, understanding, knowledge and counsel) and those that direct the will (fortitude, piety and the fear of the Lord).

**Lantern** Element (normally prism or cylindrical in shape) that brings natural light into a building.

**Purgatory** According to traditional Catholic doctrine, it is the place where souls not condemned to eternal damnation must purge, meaning purifying and atoning for their sins, before going to heaven. In 2011, however, Pope Benedict XVI declared that purgatory is not as a physical place but a condition of existence on the road to eternity.

**Sacrament** Each of the seven outward signs through which God has a spiritual effect on the soul leading to divine grace. The seven sacraments of the Catholic Church are: baptism, confirmation, communion, penance, marriage, holy orders and anointing of the sick.

**Sacristy** At a church, the place, generally off the presbytery, where sacred vessels and vestments are stored, and where the priests change for their liturgical functions.

**Works of Mercy** Each of the good deeds that aim to help fellow man. There are fourteen, grouped into the seven corporal works of mercy (to feed the hungry, to give water to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless, to visit the sick, to ransom the captive and to bury the dead) and the seven spiritual works of mercy (to instruct the ignorant, to counsel the doubtful, to admonish the sinners, to bear patiently those who wrong us, to forgive offences, to comfort the afflicted and to pray for the living and the dead).

- 1 Meaning of the Sagrada Família
- 2 Brief history of Temple construction
- 3 Gaudí and his followers. The workshop
- 4 Architecture of the Sagrada Família
- 5 Crypt, apse façade and Chapel of the Assumption
- 6 Nativity façade, cloister and portal of the Rosary
- 7 Passion façade, cloister and sacristy
- 8 Glory façade, Baptistery and Chapel of Penitence and the Sacrament**
- 9 Interior of the Basilica
- 10 Bell towers, lanterns and sacristies

