



## HIGHLIGHTS

1. Our Lady of Almudena Stele
2. Gothic chest of Saint Isidro
3. "The Disrobing of Christ" by F. Rizi
4. Blessed Sacrament Chapel
5. Pope Saint John Paul II relic
6. "Christ at the Column" and "Christ carrying the Cross"
7. Altar of the Patroness of Madrid
8. Queen María de las Mercedes sepulture
9. Presbyterium: mural paintings
10. Christ of the Good Death by J. Mesa
11. Decorated ceilings and dome
12. Monumental organ

The story of this cathedral dates back to the old parish of Santa María la Mayor, the primitive church of Madrid, which housed the sculpture of Our Lady of Almudena until its demolition in 1868. According to tradition, the Patroness of Madrid image was found by King Alfonso VI inside the city wall in 1085. Hence, her name, Almudena, comes from the Arabic word *almudaina* which means "walled precinct". The modern-day statue dates from the late 15<sup>th</sup> century and it is attributed to sculptor Diego Copín of Toledo. Her feast is celebrated on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Since the 16<sup>th</sup> century on, when the capital of the Kingdom was established in Madrid, there were many attempts to settle an Episcopal See and build a cathedral. The foremost Toledo Diocese delayed that from happening up to 1885, when Pope Leon XIII created the new Diocese of Madrid-Alcalá and set the See in the temple of Almudena.

The first promoters were the monarchs Alfonso XII and his wife María de las Mercedes, a great devoted of Our Lady. On April 4<sup>th</sup> 1883, King Alfonso XII laid the foundation stone. The first design consisted of a Gothic revival style basilica, with a Latin-cross plan and five naves, standing above an underground Neo-Romanesque crypt. Queen Maria Christina of Austria inaugurated this crypt in 1911.

In the 1940s the architects Fernando Chueca and Carlos Sidro modified the previous project by the Marquis of Cubas, in order to simplify the works and harmonize the styles of the new church and the Royal Palace. Lastly, more than one-hundred years after laying the first stone, Pope Saint John Paul II consecrated the temple on June 15<sup>th</sup> 1993.

Ever since, this cathedral has witnessed remarkable ceremonies, such as the national funeral for the victims of the Atocha attacks, the funeral of former presidents Leopoldo Calvo-Sotelo and Adolfo Suárez and the royal wedding of the current Spanish Kings, Felipe VI and Letizia.

## THE CATHEDRAL

10, Bailén Street <Metro> Sol, Opera  
OPENING TIMES: 9 a.m. - 8,30 p.m.  
July and August: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

HOLY MASS (in Spanish): Daily: 12, 18 & 19 p.m.  
(Sundays also 10,30 a.m. & 1,30 p.m.)  
July and August: 12 & 8 p.m.

(+34) 915 422 200  
www.catedraldelaalmudena.es  
informacion@atedraldelaalmudena.es

## THE MUSEUM

Almudena Square (in front of the Royal Palace)  
OPENING TIMES:  
Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. - 2,30 p.m.  
Closed on Sundays and special liturgical services  
held in the Cathedral.

(+34) 915 592 874  
museocatedral.archimadrid.es  
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## THE SOUVENIR SHOP

Next to Saint John Paul II memorial statue  
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July and August: 10 a.m. - 8,30 p.m.

(+34) 915 429 283  
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## THE CATHEDRAL OF SANTA MARÍA LA REAL DE LA ALMUDENA