

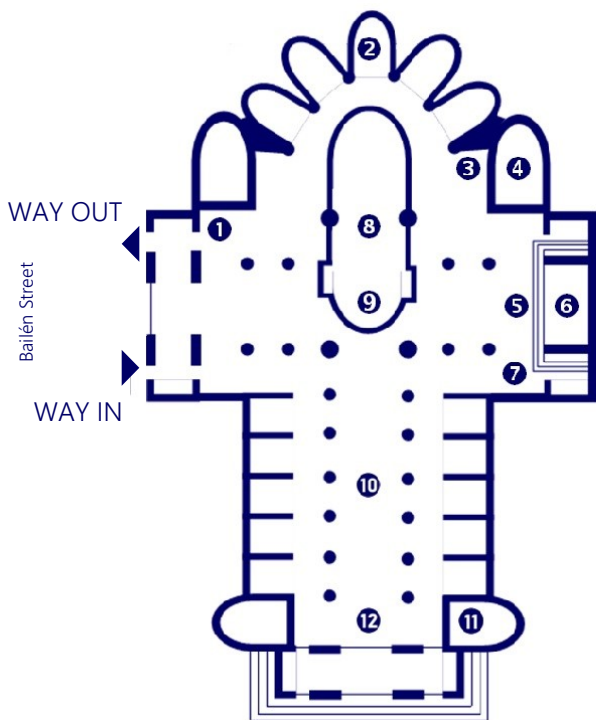
ENGLISH



CABILDO CATEDRAL METROPOLITANO
DE
MADRID



THE CATHEDRAL OF
SANTA MARÍA LA REAL
DE LA ALMUDENA



Almudena Square (opposite the Royal Palace)

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. Queen María de las Mercedes sepulture
6. Altar of the Patroness of Madrid
7. "Christ at the Column" and "Christ carrying the Cross"
8. Presbyterium: mural paintings
9. Christ of the Good Death
10. Decorated ceilings and dome
11. Pope Saint John Paul II relic
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 15th century and it is attributed to sculptor Diego Copín of Toledo. Her feast is celebrated on November 9th.

Since the 16th 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 4th 1883, King Alfonso XII laid the foundation stone. The first design consisted of a Gothic revival style basilica, with a Latin-cross plan and three 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 15th 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 & 7 p.m.

July and August: 12 & 7 p.m.

(+34) 915 422 200

www.catedraldelaalmudena.es

informacion@catedraldelaalmudena.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

www.museocatedral.archimadrid.es

reservasmuseo@catedraldelaalmudena.es



THE SOUVENIR SHOP

Next to Pope Saint John Paul II memorial statue

OPENING TIMES: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

July and August: 10 a.m. - 8,30 p.m.

(+34) 915 429 283

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