

CHURCH OF HOMPS



SENTIER DÉCOUVERTES

PATRIMOINE

HOMPS





Interior

Material:

The central nave is separated from the side ones by columns made of grey stone, set on a base of stone from Nîmes. The heads and credenzas of the sanctuary are sculpted in a stone from Boutel. The choir is paved with marble slabs. The main altar, made with marble from Carrara (Italy) is decorated with beautiful embossed sculptures and Venetian mosaics.

Above each pillar of the central nave are consecrated red painted crosses.

The right side of the transept has a chapel dedicated to the infant Jesus and the sacristy is on the left side while several other chapels are also spread along the side naves.

The building of the church started in 1879, following the death of Jules Ducup, a rich property owner living in Homps. His widow, respecting his wishes, undertook the construction without any other financial help: herself paying out four hundred thousand gold francs.

External architecture : the ground being rather unstable, the church was built on wide and deep foundations and iron bars were put between each arch to make the side naves strong.

The church was built in a similar 19th century Romanesque style to the Basilica Notre Dame de Lourdes.

The Purgatory Chapel: in this chapel the altar is molded with terracotta. In front of this chapel a vault had been dug in order to receive the bodies of the Ducup family. On a white marble plaque within is a Latin message meaning: “here lies M. Ducup and his devoted family in this second residence, waiting for the third”. However, the authorisation for burial was refused during a long time. Finally, in order to respect the deceased’s wishes, 134 years after his death, the municipality organised the transfer of Jules Ducup’s bones from the graveyard of the Romanesque Chapel to this vault, on 25th April 2013.



St Michael's Chapel : on the stained glass we can see a kneeling knight dedicating the church to the Sacred Heart. This stained glass represents the founder of the building.

The baptismal font, which is situated to the left of the main entrance, is a reproduction of the one in the Basilica of Paray Le Monial. The Roman style container for holy water is a replica of the one in the church of St Peter of Montrouge in Paris.

The pulpit is made of solid oak. It is decorated with the eagle of St John unrolling a parchment on which is written the principle of the faith: "in principio erat verbum"; and on each side there are Greek signs (alpha & omega) which mean "I am the Beginning and the End".



The X shaped chair is the style of that of King Solomon. The chalice and the pyx, in which the consecrated bread is kept for use during mass, have been modelled on the sacred vessels' found in Notre Dame de Paris. Some of these sacred items have been donated by local families.

Mrs Ducup was named the sponsor when the bells were blessed but died before she was able to have the organ installed in the gallery.



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