

The church of Saint Gilles,  
the foundations of which  
are one thousand years old,  
is the architectural gem of  
“Our Little City  
of Character.”

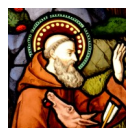
It has lived in the rhythm  
of the city, sharing  
its joys and misfortunes.  
It stands in the heart of the  
town, a witness  
of its long history  
and a link between  
successive generations.  
Our wish is that this leaflet  
makes you want  
to know it better and that  
you will receive  
all the spiritual beauty  
it reveals.

We hope that the windows  
will light up your visit.



Morbihan  
Brittany

# MALESTROIT



# The Church of saint Gilles

Welcome  
to all the visitors  
who come  
and admire  
this house of God.

This building is  
a place of life,  
a meeting-place  
for Christians  
to pray.

It also signifies  
Christ at the heart  
of the world,  
bringing together  
God's people  
in their diversity.



Discover the beauties of the church by following the **numbers** and **letters** on the plan of the church. Enjoy your visit !

**1** **Notre Dame de pitié** is a beautiful pieta in polychrome wood of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. She is sheltering under the roman vault of the primitive transept whose narrow windows have stained glass from the last century. It is a frequently visited place for personal prayer.

**2** **Le chœur de semaine**, the place of daily mass and the presence of the Holy Sacrament, is the chancel of the primitive chapel built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Its chevet, now flat and endowed with a modern stained-glass window originally housed a sacred spring which became the well that you can see on the exterior of the church. **Windows A and B.**

**3** The recently- discovered **mediaeval animal paintings** on the vault of the square transept date back to the time of the Crusades which explains these unique oriental motifs in Brittany.

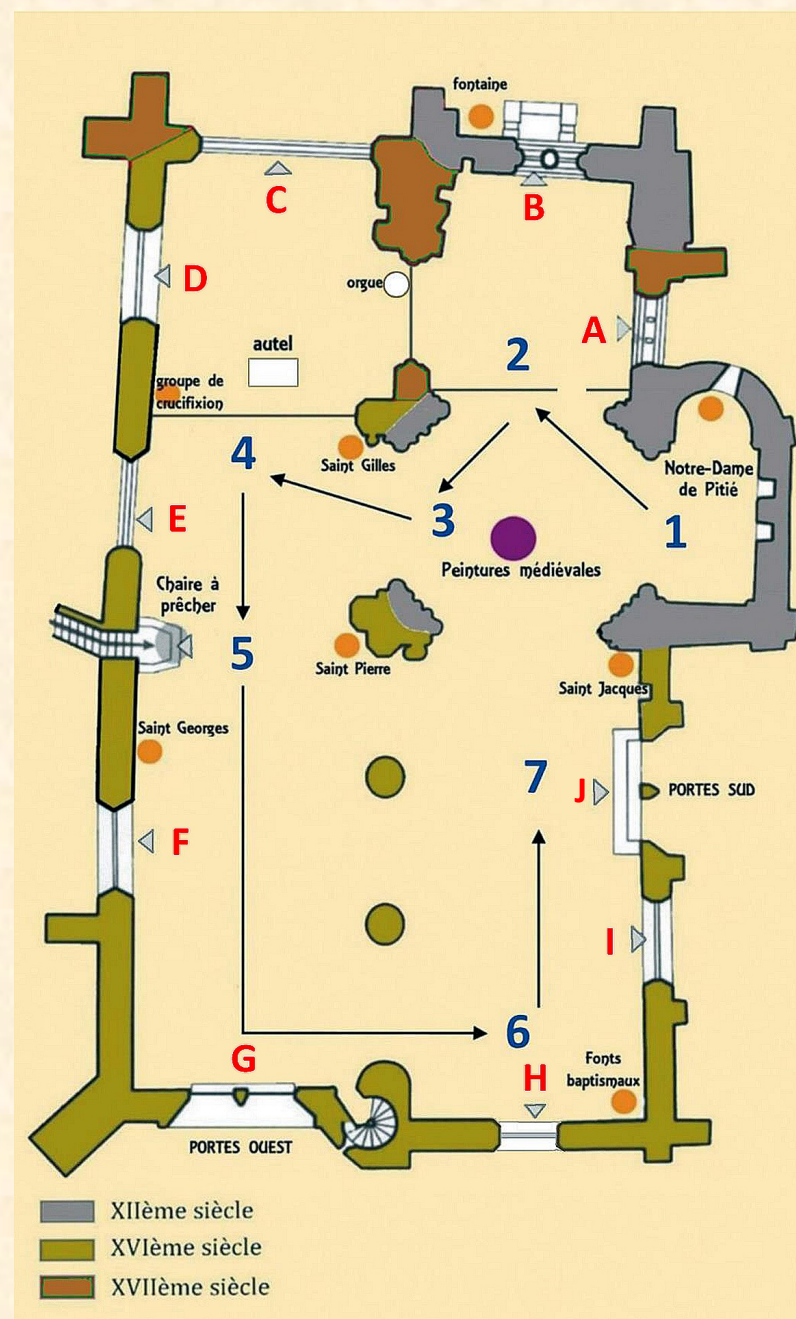
**4** **Church chancel** along the edge of the gothic nave. **Windows C and D.** On your left a **crucifixion group** coming from the Madeleine Priory. Christ on the cross (15<sup>th</sup> century) between the virgin Mary and Saint John (17<sup>th</sup> century)

**5** **This pulpit** is surprising by the absence of a visible staircase (which is situated in the Sacristy ) and for its Baroque style. It would have been designed by a marine architect (17<sup>th</sup> century) On the left a statue of Saint George slaying the dragon (17<sup>th</sup> century). **Windows E, F and G.**

**6** Here we are in the nave of the original chapel, entirely re-worked in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It has kept its **baptismal fonts**, the sculpted plinth of which dates to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. **Windows H and I.**

**7** Near the south doors the statue of **Saint James** is witness to the Breton pilgrimages to Compostella. **Window J.**

*On the outside, the woodwork of the doors and the stone sculptures deserve a closer inspection...*



## The Windows

**A** **The presentation of Jesus at the temple** (1893) Joseph and Mary (on the right) present Jesus at the temple. Simeon is carrying Jesus and with Anne, the female prophet, they give thanks to God.

**B** Modern window from 1960 : **the mysteries of the Rosary** (the Rosary is a prayer using rosary beads while meditating on the “mysteries” linked to the life of Jesus and the Virgin Mary).

**C** **The Great Window** (1900). Above the coats of arms three episodes in the life of Saint Gilles. Higher up, a rose window with Christ and the Apostles. Around it, Saints linked to the quarters of Malestroit and Breton Saints amongst others. At the very top, God the Father and the dove of The Holy Spirit.

**D** The oldest window from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, dedicated to **the life of Saint Gilles and that of Saint Nicholas.**

**E** To the right of the pulpit the “**Mercy in the Gospel**” (12 scenes in random order of the life of Christ), 19<sup>th</sup> century windows.

**F** To the left of the pulpit : **the life of Christ and Saint Roch.** (16<sup>th</sup> century).

**G** **Contemporary glass** in a Gothic window (2012)

**H** Rose window of **the Virgin and Child.** (end of 19<sup>th</sup>, beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century)

**I** Window showing **the Eucharist** (1892) incorporating The Last Supper, Jesus’ last meal with his disciples before his death and resurrection (16<sup>th</sup> century).

**J** Over the South door, **Jesse’s Tree** (16<sup>th</sup> century), the family tree of Jesus from Jesse, father of King David.

*This leaflet was produced by the Parish of Saint Gilles of Malestroit  
[www.malestroit-catholique.com](http://www.malestroit-catholique.com)  
 in collaboration with Maltrec  
 (Heritage Association of Malestroit)*

Feel free to take it with you.  
 You can make an offering in the box  
 near the statue of Notre Dame de Pitié. Thank you.

