

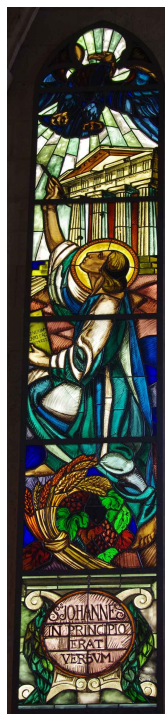
Two lancets under the Georg Westenfelder organ



The stained glass windows of the church choir, installed in October 1924, were partially blown out by a bombardment in 1940. They were removed in December 1941 by the Gruber workshop and stored in crates transferred to the Paris region. When the Historic Monuments repository was created in 1955, the question arose of the fate of these works. Finally, the creation of new stained glass windows for the choir was entrusted to Jacques Simon's workshop in Reims.

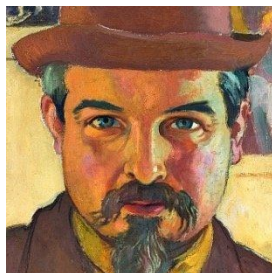
The very existence of the crates was forgotten until in 2003. The comparison of the family archives of Maurice Denis and the inventory lists of Historic Monuments led to uncovering the panels of the

church of Fère. A condition report requested by the City in 2008 made it possible to assess the extent of the damage caused by the bomb that fell near the choir. The window to the South appeared relatively spared; a restoration was handled by the Berthelot workshops. It was facilitated by the existence of full-sized cartoons, preserved in the reserves of the departmental Maurice-Denis museum in Saint-Germain-en-Laye. The windows have been reinstalled since 2013 on luminous pedestals under the organ: Saint Luke with the features of Maurice Denis on the left, and Saint John on the right.



Maurice-Denis Museum

In Saint-Germain-en-Laye, in the privileged setting of an artist's residence, the Maurice Denis Departmental Museum presents an original collection dedicated to symbolist and Nabi painters, post-impressionists, and the Pont-Aven group. Created by the department of Yvelines in 1976 thanks to an important donation from the Denis family, the museum is devoted to the painter and theorist Maurice Denis, to symbolist and Nabi artists, and their time. Since 2002, it has carried the "musée de France" label.



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Practical Information



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FÈRE-EN-TARDENOIS

Memorial stained glass window for those who died for France

Created by Maurice Denis and Marguerite Huré
Inaugurated on August 3, 1924



Ordered by Etienne Moreau-Nélaton in memory of the death of his son

A stained glass window in memory of Etienne Moreau-Nélaton's son

The loss of a son

One night in May 1918, Dominique, Etienne Moreau-Nélaton's beloved child, fell on the battlefield of the Great War at the age of 24

Etienne Moreau-Nélaton received this letter from the Ministry of War: "It was on the evening of May 11 that he found the most beautiful death a soldier could find. Under a terrible, impassible barrage, he was stationed, totally dedicated, amid the shells, to sustaining the courage of his platoon. He was hit around one in the morning. He was not to survive his wound and, an hour later, breathed his last. Your son, Sir, was one of the few disinterested participants in the war. It was neither for the glory nor for the honors that he was fighting; it was for the deliverance of oppressed peoples and for the salvation of our great France."

Auguste Emery,
44^e d'infanterie, 6^e C^{ie}.

The bay window of the Saint Louis chapel of the Saint Macre church in Fère-en-Tardenois was destroyed during the Great War. In the spring of 1923, Etienne Moreau-Nélaton ordered a commemorative stained glass window by Maurice Denis to replace it. Its creation was entrusted to Marguerite Huré.



Maurice Denis (1870-1943)



From his days as an art student on, the painter Maurice Denis worked with young artists in search of new aesthetic solutions. He formed the Nabi group, of which he was also the theorist.

First symbolist and synthetic, his painting then turned towards a renewed classicism.

Religious themes, intimist and family scenes, landscapes of Italy and Brittany, are common in Denis' work, which, besides easel paintings, includes numerous wall decorations, stained glass windows, book illustrations...

Marguerite Huré (1895-1967)

Marguerite Huré, a glassworker and painter, played a pioneering role in the introduction of abstraction into French religious glassmaking.

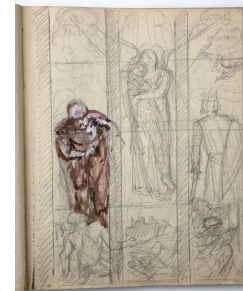
She first studied with glass artist Émile Ader before founding her own studio in 1920. She worked with many artists, including Maurice Denis. She collaborated, for example, in the decoration of Notre-Dame du Raincy (1925-27), at the chapel of the Colombière school in Chalon-sur-Saône (1929).



The creation of the commemorative stained glass window

Maurice Denis describes it himself:

"In the centre, the sacrifice of the soldier who died for his country is represented in its mystical completion, which is already his reward: an angel carries the martyr to Christ in glory, but it is the suffering Christ of the cross who welcomes him. With a few lines, I gave the soldier the silhouette of Dominique Moreau-Nélaton, in order to honour his memory and to associate the names of the founders of the chapel with those of his Patron Saints, represented on the sides. On the right, it is Saint Louis, king of France, fighting the hereditary enemy: a black eagle that can be seen in the cloud.



Below, in front of him, two infantrymen, one dying or wounded, the other who shoulders and shoots. On the left, Saint Martin shares his coat with a pauper; this pauper is a peasant whose broken plough lies next to him; a village in the devastated lands stands out against the sky, we see a ruined belltower reminiscent of Fère's."