

## IMPORTANT EVENTS AT THE CATHEDRAL

*In 1209, the national Council took place here.  
And 53 regional councils also took place here.  
On his way to Egypt, Saint Louis, King of France, stopped here twice.*

*King Philip VI of France, King Philipp of Navarra and King John of Bohemia received their Crusaders' cross from the Pope himself.*

*Pope Innocent VI, Urban V and Gregory XI were crowned here.*

*With King Charles VI in attendance, Louis of Anjou was crowned here.*

*Pope Benedict XII and Pope John XXII are buried here as are 159 cardinals and archbishops.*

*Here St Bertrand de Comminges, St Pierre Célestin St Louis of Toulouse, St Thomas Aquinas and St Yves were canonized respectively in 1309, 1313, 1317, 1323 and 1347.*

*It was from this very Cathedral that, in 1317, the first procession in honour of Corpus Christi (Fête-Dieu) started and again, here in 1334 Pope John XXII instituted the Feast of the Blessed Trinity.*

*Pope Gregory XI instituted here the devotion to St Joseph.*

*According to Pope John XXII's wishes, this Cathedral's bells were the very first to start ringing the evening Angelus.*

*In 1745, Our Lady of the Doms was declared a Metropolis by Pope Sixtus IV. He named Giulano della Rovere, former bishop of Carpentras, to be the first bishop of Avignon. Eventually the latter became Pope Julius II, during the Renaissance. Before him, two members of the chapter had also become popes as Anastase IV and Adrian IV.*

*In 1672, in remembrance of all the cardinals who had lived in Avignon during the papacy, Pope Clement X received the privilege, hardly ever bestowed to a cathedral chapter, to wear the Cappa Magna, the red cape, during solemn religious offices.*

*In 1995, Cardinal Ratzinger, soon to become Pope in 2005 as Benedict XVI, visited this Cathedral and signed its Guest Book.*

## THE CATHEDRAL, OUR LADY OF THE DOMS

The cathedral is the main church for the Bishop of Avignon who celebrates here all the major liturgical events : ordinations, chrismal mass, feasts, etc.,

*"Polish Carmelites of Child-Jesus"* ensure a constant religious presence; they welcome visitors, pilgrims and groups and take general care of the cathedral.

A cleric bearing both the title of rector and canon, nominated by the bishop, celebrates mass daily and on Sundays. He is also available to visitors and pilgrims (04 90 86 81 01)

## RELIGIOUS SCHEDULE

### Masses :

- Week days : 8am (summer),  
8:30am (winter)
- Sundays and holydays : 10am

### Divine Offices : (monday through saturday)

- Lauds : 7:40 am (summer); 8:10am (winter)
- Vespers : 6:30pm (summer); 5pm (winter)

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (monday through saturday)

- 4:30 - 6:30pm (summer)
- 3 to 5pm (winter)



*The Blessed Sacrament is found on the left of the nave.  
You can meditate and pray there.*

D I O C E S E O F A V I G N O N

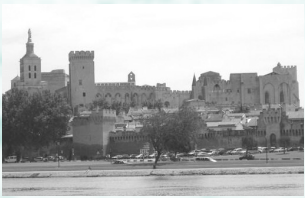
# Cathedral Our Lady of the Doms



*Your are about to enter a church where  
God the Father, the Son and the Spirit are present.  
This church also speaks to us about you, about all of us,  
its people, it speaks about our past, present and future.*

*Mary, our Lady of the Doms, greets you  
in the house our forefathers built in her honor.*

## HISTORICAL NOTES



The name of this cathedral "Notre-Dame des Doms" comes from the latin *Domus episcopali* meaning "from the Bishop's house". Historians tend to believe that from the 4th century onward there was here a basilica and close to it the bishop's residence.

Destroyed by the Saracens in 731, it was rebuilt and consecrated on October 8, 1111.

The present building dates back to the first half of the 12th century. Built in provençal romanesque style, it included only one nave primitively. During the pontificate of John XXII, most of the inner chapels were added.

The choir was rebuilt in 1670 and the steeple which had crumbled down in 1405 was rebuilt in 1425. Its largest bell weighs over 9 tons. The gilded statue of the Virgin dominating the church, made of embossed lead and weighing 4,5 tons was erected in 1859. The baroque galleries were sculpted by Pierre Péru in 1672.

During the French Revolution, the church was heavily damaged, and the cathedral turned into a prison. It was under the leadership of a young Avignon bishop, Monsignor Du Pont (1835-1842) that the cathedral was restored in the first quarter of the 19th century.

In recent years, the cathedral, which belongs to the French state like all existing churches built prior to 1905, was restored and enhanced in more than one way: the carillon was completed and now includes 35 bells ringing liturgical melodies all year long.

The cathedral holds two organs :

- On the one hand the Italianate gilded organ in the gallery was built by Lodovico Piantanida from Lombardy. It was restored in 2005 by "Fabrica d'organi Mascioni" from Azzio (Province of Varese, Italy).
- On the other hand, there is in the choir a 1902 organ by Cavallé-Coll which was restored in 1954 by Puget of Toulouse, France.

In the chapel devoted to Jean XXII, one finds priceless religious objects, reliquaries and vestments belonging to the diocese of Avignon.

**In summertime, it can be visited, free of charge, from 4:30 PM until 6:30 PM.**

**In the Cathedral gift shop, on the left as you exit the church, you will find postcards and booklets illustrating the cathedral's significant works of art.**

## QUICK SUMMARY

### Left Chapel as you enter the Cathedral

- "Assumption" attributed to Pierre Mignard.
- "Carrying of the Cross", 16th century, tempera on wood, attributed to Simon of Chalons.
- "Christ", 16th century polychrome stone statue.

### Vestibule, on the right as you enter

- left wall: "Baptism of Jesus Christ", 15th century fresco. Note the Spiefamy family portrayed here.
- Right wall: 16th century baptismal font.
- On either side: statues representing "Saint Martha" and "Saint Mary Magdalen", by Jean Péru (1690).

### As you walk up the nave towards the altar

- in the left chapel: pre-romanesque altar with columns dating back to end of the 5th or beginning of the 6th century.
- "Visitation and Presentation of the Lord child to the Temple" by Nicolas Mignard.

### Left nave

- Pope Benedict XII's tomb
- Painting by Eugène Devéria (1849-1853)
- Holy Ghost Chapel: paintings on wax by Eugène Devéria (1838)
- above the altar: "The Disciples of Emmaus",
- on both sides: "Annunciation" and "Presentation of the Lord child to the Temple".

### In the church's chancel

- Archiepiscopal throne in white marble (12th Century) used by Popes (See the lion representing St Mark and the ox for St Luke)
- Stone altar (12th century) on which Popes celebrated mass.
- Tomb of "Crillon the Brave", a fellow companion of Henry IV, King of France.
- "Assumption" by Nicolas Mignard (1633)

### In the Funerary Chapel (treasure)

- Gothic tomb of Pope John XXII
- Religious vestments and artefacts.

### As you walk down the nave, one can see on the left

- **1st Chapel** : Devoted to Saint Névia Félicité. (See the reliquary, a gift of Pope Pius IX).
- **2nd Chapel** : Chapel in the Baroque style dedicated to our "Lady of the Doms" (17th Century). See the statue of the Virgin by Pradier (19th Century) and the statues of the "Witnesses to the Resurrection".
- **3rd Chapel** : "Our Lady Almighty" (14th Century statue, a gift of Pope John XXII).
- **4th Chapel** : devoted to local Saints: St Agricola, St Gens and St Benezet.

## POPES IN AVIGNON



Clement V .....	1305 - 1314
John XXII .....	1316 - 1334
Benedict XII .....	1334 - 1342
Clement VI .....	1342 - 1352
Innocent VI .....	1352 - 1362
Urban V .....	1362 - 1370
Gregory XI .....	1370 - 1376

Following their return to Rome (Western Schism) :  
Clement VII, Benedict XIII



## COMMEMORATIONS

- 1305 - 2005 :

Commemoration 700 years since the election of **Clement V**, the first Avignon pope.

- 1309 - 2009 :

**Clement V** settle up as a pope in Avignon.

- 1111 - 2011 :

900 years since the consecration of the cathedral Notre-Dame des Doms

