

Biblical iconography in Irish stained glass in the Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland traditions

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The stained glass windows in Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland churches on the island of Ireland show marked differences and discernable patterns in the frequency and range of biblical themes depicted. This paper describes and accounts for this variation in terms of the distinctive biblical hermeneutic and liturgy of the two traditions. It also analyses the iconography of several particularly striking windows and window sequences, including the St John window in the Honan Chapel, which is consistently misidentified as representing scenes from the passion of Christ from John's Gospel, and the windows of St Fin Barre's Cathedral in Cork.