ENGLISH

INFORMATION BOOKLETS

Basílica Sagrada Família

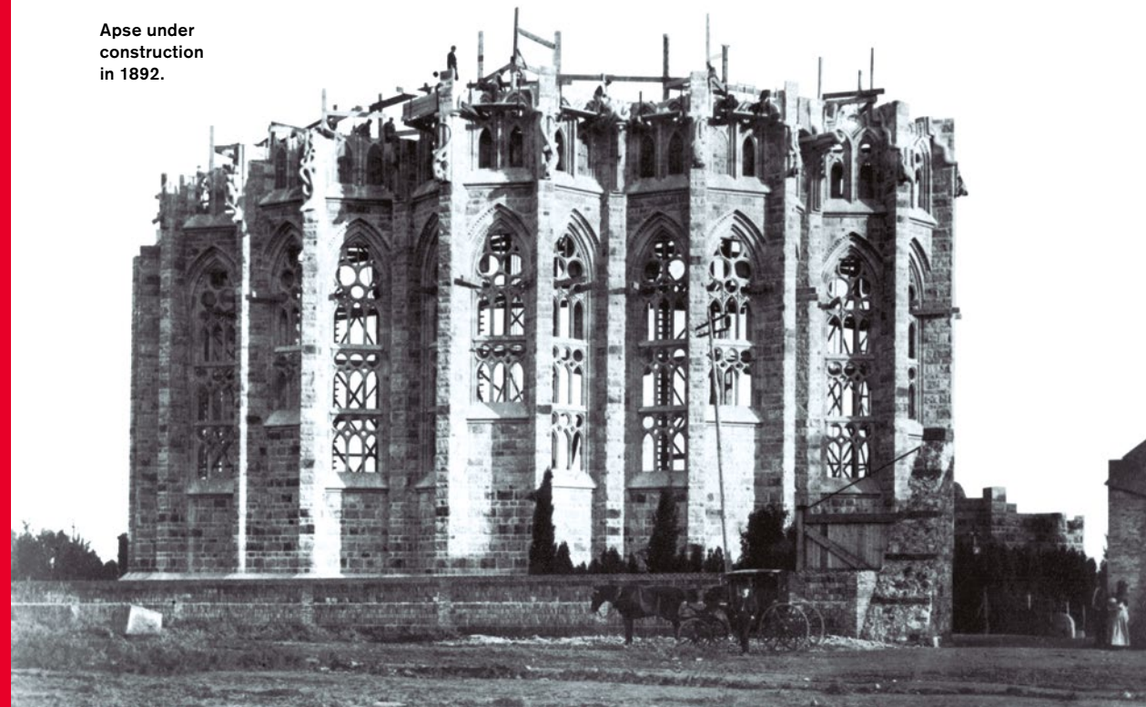
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Basílica Sagrada Família

Brief history of Temple construction

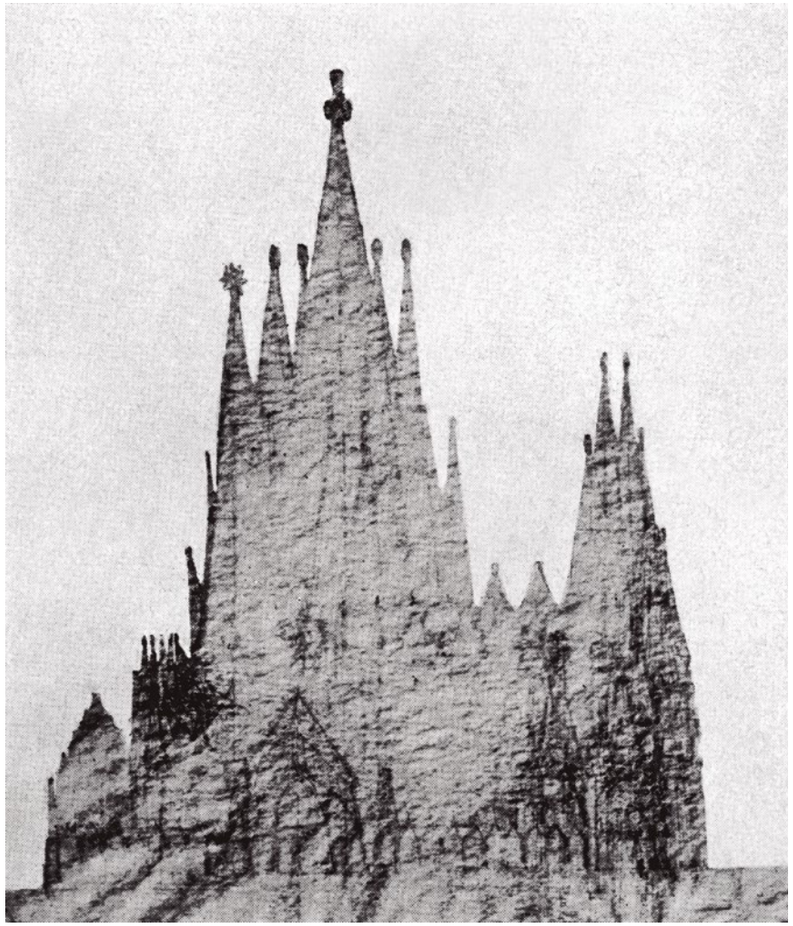
Gaudí was always aware that, given the size and complexity of the Sagrada Família, he would never see it finished and would require help from the following generations.

Apse under construction in 1892.



A unique temple

Gaudí, through architecture, wanted to share the evangelical message and bear witness to the presence of the Church around the world.



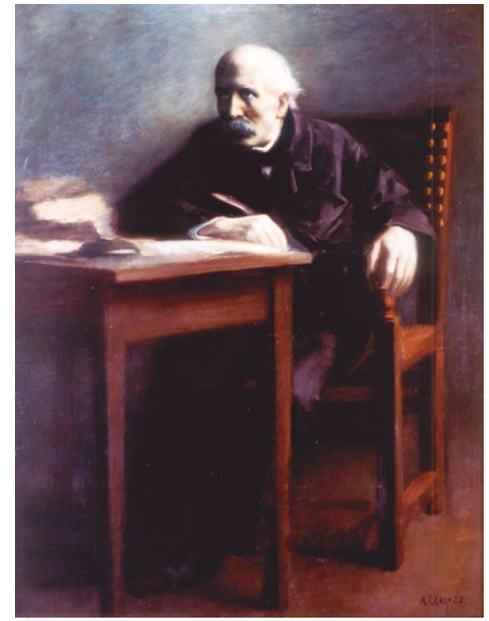
Sketches of the whole Temple, drawn by Gaudí. He began working on the project in 1906 and kept changing it until the day he died (in 1926), adding new solutions, like the sacristy, drawn with the shape of the last model.

The Sagrada Família is a one-of-a-kind temple, for its origins, foundation and purpose. It is a church designed in the 19th century, based on the layout of medieval cathedrals, and then modernised in terms of the building processes, functionality and symbolism. Gaudí used the holy scriptures and nature as models, and through architecture, wanted to share the evangelical message and bear witness to the presence of the Church around the world.

Origins of the project

We associate the Sagrada Família with Gaudí, but we shouldn't forget Josep Maria Bocabella and Father Josep Manyanet, who originally promoted the project.

Much has been said of the origins of the Temple of the Sagrada Família, often mentioning the fact that Josep Maria Bocabella visited Rome and Loreto in 1871. In truth, however, we have to go a bit further back in time. Bocabella, who was highly devoted to Saint Joseph, founded the Asociación Espiritual de Devotos de San José (Spiritual Association of the Devotees of Saint Joseph) in 1866, and the magazine *El Propagador de la Devoción a San José*, in collaboration with Father José María Rodríguez, who was the editor. The purpose of the association and the magazine was to ask for Saint Joseph to intercede on behalf of the Church. At the same time, Father Josep Manyanet, who worked in the Urgell diocese for families proposing the model of the Holy Family, learnt of the initiative Bocabella and Father Rodríguez were promoting and became a member of the association and subscribed to the magazine. But that's not all, on his travels, he met Bocabella and his family, and the two developed a close relationship. This led Father Manyanet to share with Bocabella and Father Rodríguez his inspiration that a national temple should be built in honour of Saint Joseph and the Holy Family. Unsurprisingly, the idea was heartily welcomed and when Bocabella returned from Loreto in 1871, after visiting Rome to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Holy Father's pontificate, he went back to Father Manyanet's idea. So, on 31 December 1881, for 172,000 pesetas, they acquired 12,800 m² of land in the former town of Sant Martí de Provençals, now part of Barcelona's Eixample district, to build an expiatory temple, meaning it would be funded exclusively with alms from the faithful to absolve humanity's sins. They commissioned diocesan architect Francisco de Paula del Villar to build the church, with the works beginning in 1882. Just a year later, however, due to disagreements with Bocabella, he was replaced with a young architect, Antoni Gaudí, who over the years created a much more ambitious project, both architecturally and symbolically. It even covered the surrounding areas, submitting proposals for the space around the Temple to the City Council in 1916.

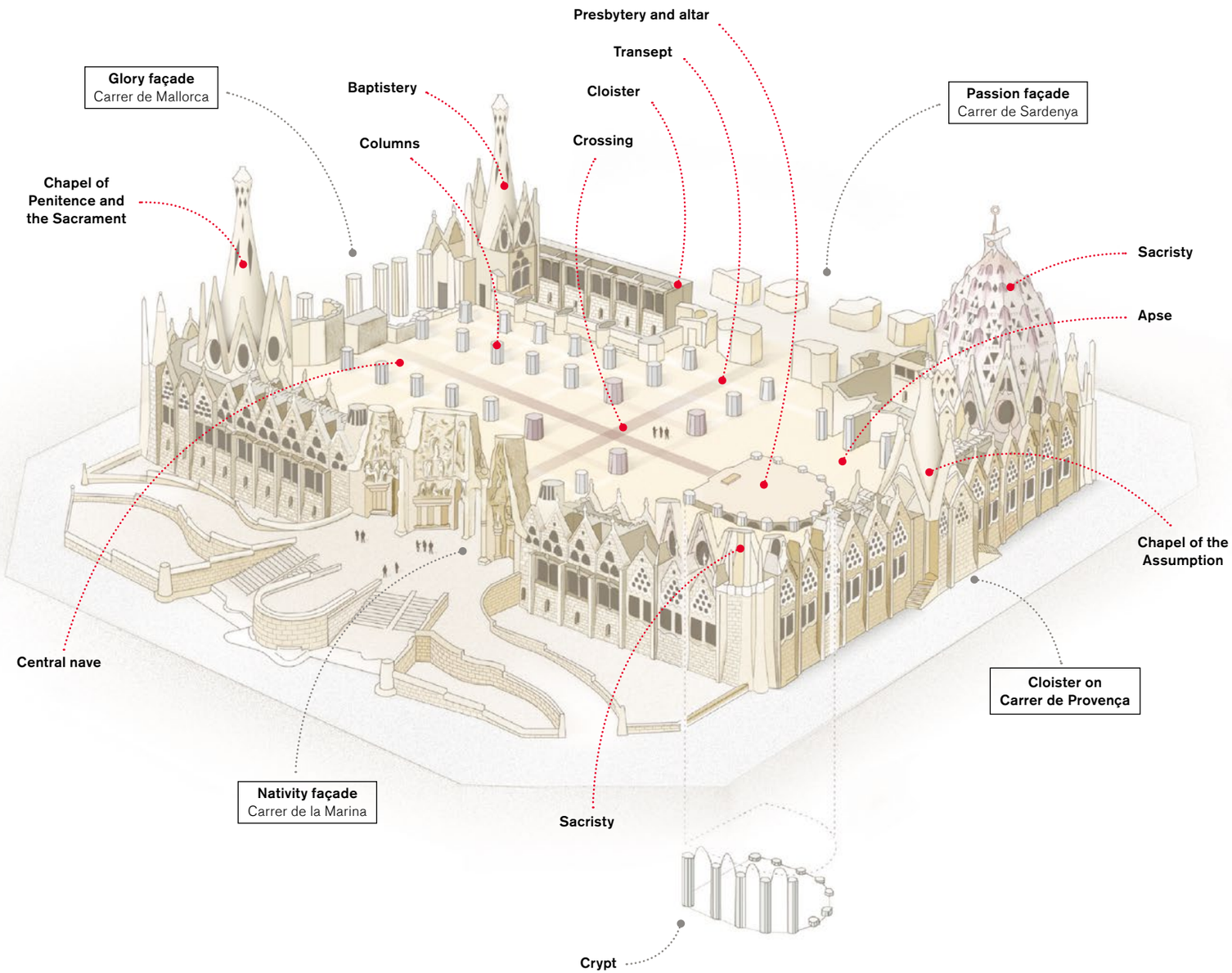


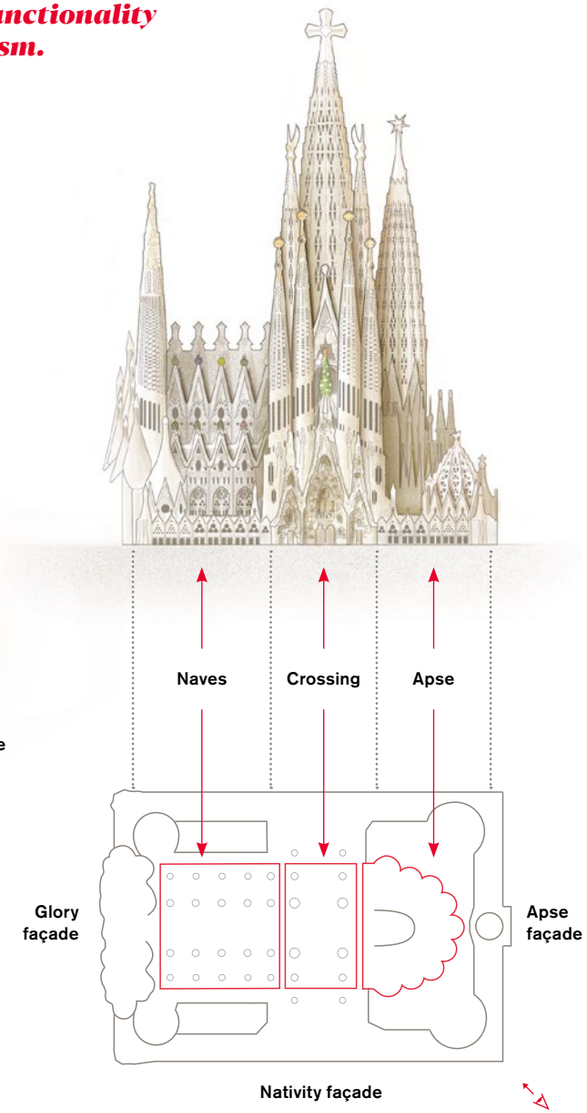
Oil painting of Josep Maria Bocabella by Aleix Clapés, c. 1892.

Layout of the Basilica

Although the Temple has a basilica form, the architectural innovations Gaudí proposed are clearly visible at the Sagrada Família.

The Sagrada Família started off with the layout of medieval cathedrals, but was then modernised in terms of the building processes, functionality and symbolism.





Aware that he wouldn't be able to finish the Temple, Gaudí decided to build up so that the part he could finish would serve as a model for the architects that would come after him.



The Temple in 1933, seven years after Gaudí died, while Domènec Sugranyes was in charge of the works.

Brief history

The history of the Basilica is getting on in years, but even more in milestones, as so much has gone on here.



Original design for the project for the Sagrada Família by diocesan architect Francisco de Paula del Villar following the prevailing guidelines of the time, with neo-Gothic elements: ogival windows, buttresses, flying buttresses and a pointed bell tower. Technical differences, about the cost of materials, led this architect to be replaced with another who was starting to stand out in the field, Antoni Gaudí, who took the project in a different direction, transforming it into an ambitious proposal for the church of the future.



The bell tower dedicated to the apostle Barnabas was the only one Gaudí would see finished.

1882 Project designed by Francisco de Paula del Villar.

On 19 March, Bishop Urquinaona lays the cornerstone of the Temple.

1883 Antoni Gaudí takes over the project, while still working on other buildings.

1885 Chapel of Saint Joseph inaugurated in the crypt and first masses held.

1891 Work begins on the Nativity façade.

1914 Antoni Gaudí begins working exclusively on the Temple, until his death.

1925 Saint Barnabas bell tower on the Nativity façade is completed.

1926 Gaudí dies and his disciple Domènec Sugranyes takes over the project.

1936 The Sagrada Família is vandalised during the Spanish Civil War. Plans and photographs are burnt and the plaster models, smashed.

1939 Francesc de Paula Quintana takes over site management, which is able to go on thanks to the material that could be saved from Gaudí's workshop and that was reconstructed from published plans and photographs.

1952 Staircase on the Nativity façade is built, and the façade is lit up for the first time.

1954 Foundation laid for the Passion façade.

1955 The first collection is held.



1958 On 19 March, the feast of Saint Joseph, a sculpture group representing the Holy Family is put in place, created by Jaume Busquets.

1961 Museum created to explain historical, technical, artistic and symbolic aspects of the Temple to visitors.

1966 Quintana dies and Isidre Puig i Boada and Lluís Bonet i Garí take over.

1976 Bell towers on the Passion façade completed.

1978 Construction begins on the façades on the side naves.

1983 Francesc Cardoner i Blanch takes over the project.

1985 Jordi Bonet i Armengol is named head architect and site manager.

1986 Josep Maria Subirachs is commissioned to make the sculpture groups for the Passion façade.

1986–2010 The foundations for all the naves, columns, vaults and façades on the main nave, the transepts, crossing and apse are built and, on 7 November 2010, Pope Benedict XVI consecrates the Temple and declares it a minor Basilica.

Until the middle of the 20th century, construction was still done using wood scaffolding. A far cry from the means used today.



2005 The Nativity façade and crypt are named UNESCO world heritage.

2011 2010 Barcelona City Award in Architecture and Urban Planning goes to the Temple nave.



2012 Jordi Faulí takes over from Jordi Bonet as head architect and site manager for the works on the Temple of the Sagrada Família, which carry on according to Antoni Gaudí's plans.

2016 Construction begins on the towers of the Evangelists, the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ.

Work is completed on the western sacristy and the cloister of Our Lady of Dolours.

2018 The cross is put in place on the top of the pediment on the Passion façade.

2021 Inauguration of the tower of the Virgin Mary and lighting of the morning star.

2022 Completion of the towers of the Evangelists Mark and Luke.

2023 Completion of the towers of the Evangelists John and Matthew.

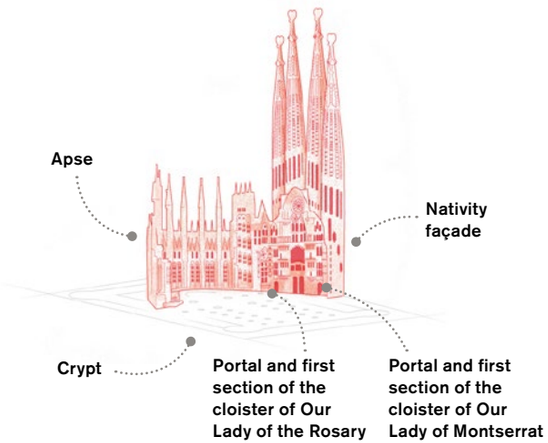
2026 Completion of the central tower dedicated to Jesus Christ, the Temple's tallest.

Phases of construction of the Sagrada Família

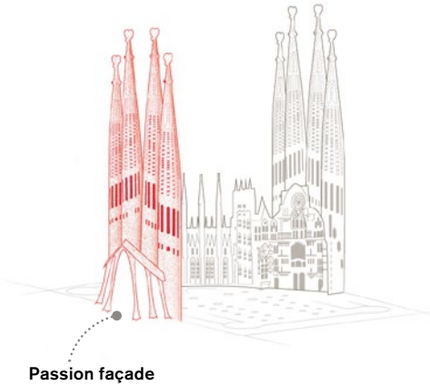
Gaudí was always aware that, given the size and complexity of the Sagrada Família, he would never see it finished and would require help from the following generations. They would have to continue developing the general project that he had established, with the technical innovations of each era.

Given its complexity, the Sagrada Família has been built in different cycles and at different rates, but the project has carried on and now its completion is on the horizon.

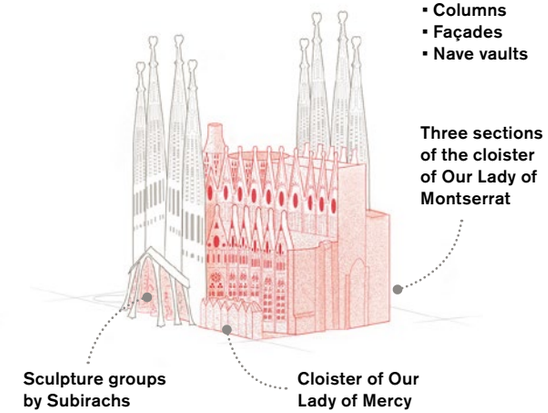
1 1882 – 1930



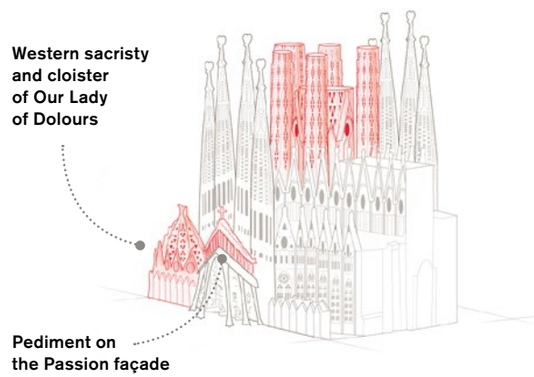
2 1954 – 1977



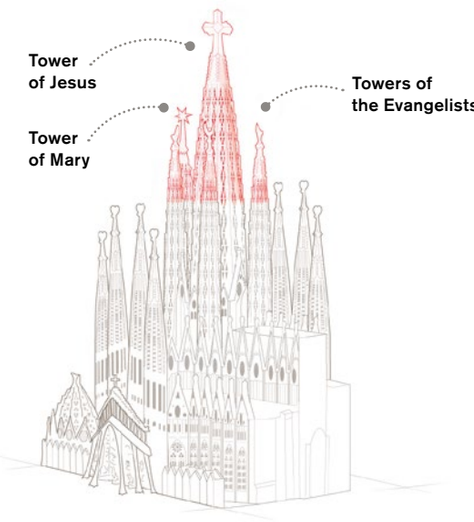
3 1978 – 2010



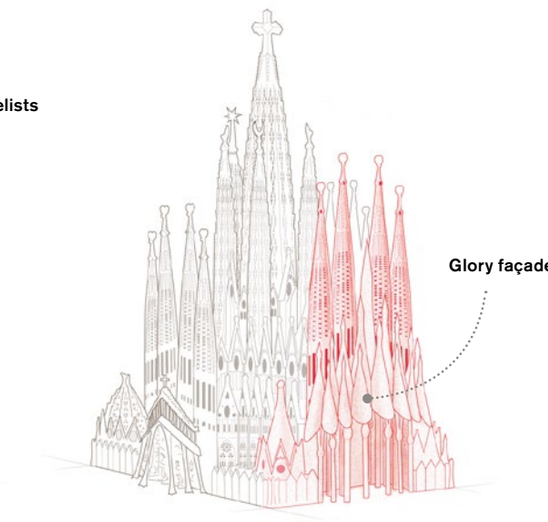
4 2011 – 2018



5 2026 All six central towers finished



6 Under construction, date to be determined: completion of the Basilica



Glossary

Altar Table-shaped construction on which the Eucharist is celebrated.

Apse Part of a church, normally with a semicircular floor plan, that sticks out from the rear façade and generally houses the presbytery and the altar. The apse tends to be surrounded by an even number of small or apse chapels.

Asociación Espiritual de Devotos de San José (Spiritual Association of the Devotees of Saint Joseph) Founded in 1866 by Josep Maria Bocabella, this association, which came to have 600,000 members, used its magazine *El Propagador de la Devoción a San José* to spread the word, publishing roughly 25,000 copies. In 1948, the name of the magazine was changed to *Temple*, the name under which it is still published by the Fundació Junta Constructora del Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família, which has overseen construction of the Temple since 1895.

Basilica Church seen as notable for its age or significance.

Bocabella i Verdaguer, Josep Maria (Barcelona, 1815–1892) A fervent Catholic who was highly devoted to Saint Joseph, book merchant Bocabella decided to foster devotion to this saint and founded the Asociación Espiritual de Devotos de San José (Spiritual Association of the Devotees of Saint Joseph) and the magazine *El Propagador de la Devoción a San José*. He also published numerous religious books and booklets.

Cloister Covered passageway, normally square, with one or two storeys, a wall on one side and a portico or colonnade on the other, that runs around the perimeter of a courtyard, garden, etc. and connects the different parts of the building, normally a monastery, cathedral, university or similar.

Crossing Square space, generally topped with a dome, shared by the transversal and longitudinal naves of a church. This term can also be used to refer to the whole transversal nave of a church, more commonly known as the transept.

Crypt Church or chapel located below the main church.

Major basilica The four main churches in Rome, considered the first in Christianity: Saint John Lateran, Santa Maria Maggiore, Saint Paul Outside the Walls and Saint Peter in the Vatican.

Manyanet i Vives, Josep (Tremp, 1833–Barcelona, 1901) Sant Josep Manyanet. Ordained priest in 1859, he was devoted to the Holy Family and promoted this model tirelessly throughout his life. He founded the institutions Fills de la Sagrada Família and Filles de la Santa Casa de Natzaret. He was beatified in 1984 and canonised in 2004.

Minor basilica Honorary title bestowed by the Pope on churches in the Christian realm that are important given their history, size and the veneration they inspire as places of worship.

Presbytery Part of a church, located at the back of the central nave, that houses the main altar. It is often raised above the rest of the church and reserved for clerics.

Sacristy At a church, the place, generally off the presbytery, where sacred vessels and vestments are stored, and where the priests change for their liturgical functions.

Transept Transversal nave of a church that forms a cross with the main nave.

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