

## The Easter candle

### Explanation of colours and symbols



#### Relief A

This relief represents the Lamb and the book sealed with seven seals. The image refers to the book of Revelation where Jesus receives the book with the seven seals. The seals symbolise the spiritual powers and forces present on earth. Jesus receives at this moment full authority and control over everything to come. That's why we can put our trust in Him.

#### Relief B

This relief is based on detail from a stained glass window in the St. Catherine Church in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. It symbolises the miraculous catch of fish from Luke 5. After fishing all night and not catching anything, Jesus tells his disciples to go fishing during the day. Against all odds they catch a net-breaking amount of fish. For the disciples and us today a lesson in faith. The ship's mast represented as a cross reminds us of this.

#### Relief C

The Chi Rho monogram is one of the oldest signs. Chi is the character X, Rho the character P; X and P are the first two characters of the word Christos (Greek). The symbol was often used as an inscription in catacombs and graves.

#### Relief D

The cross-sign is the best known symbol of the Christian Faith. The Latin cross consists of a longer vertical beam and a shorter cross beam, but there are many different shapes and variations. The symbol of the cross points in the first place to the suffering of Christ. It also calls us to take up our crosses and follow him. Also, the cross is a symbol of reconciliation with God.

The *alpha and omega* are respectively the first and last letter of the Greek alphabet. The symbolic meaning comes from the Book of Revelation in which Jesus calls himself the alpha and omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

*White* is the color of purity, joy and celebration.

*Red* is symbolic of the blood of Christ and of love.

*Blue* represents the heavens, but also wisdom and charity.

*Green* is the colour of growth, life, hope, faith, and immortality.

*Yellow or gold* refers to the kingship of Christ.