

What is the bird on the back of the church by the side of St Joseph?

In the Catholic tradition, the **peacock is a symbol of immortality and resurrection**. This symbolism dates back to early Christianity and was adopted from ancient beliefs that the peacock's flesh did not decay after death—a belief that made it a powerful metaphor for the eternal life promised through Christ's Resurrection.

The **peacock also represents the glory of God, the soul's immortality, and the promise of eternal life** in heaven.

While the **Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)** does not specifically mention the peacock, the meaning behind its symbolism aligns closely with the Church's teachings on the resurrection of the body and eternal life:

“By his death and Resurrection, Jesus Christ has opened for us the way to a new life... it is above all the victory over death, the sin of the world, and the new access to divine grace.” (CCC 654)

Early Christian art, especially in the catacombs and mosaics, often depicts peacocks in paradise scenes, reflecting this understanding. The **Catholic Encyclopedia** also affirms that in Christian iconography, the peacock is “an emblem of immortality.”