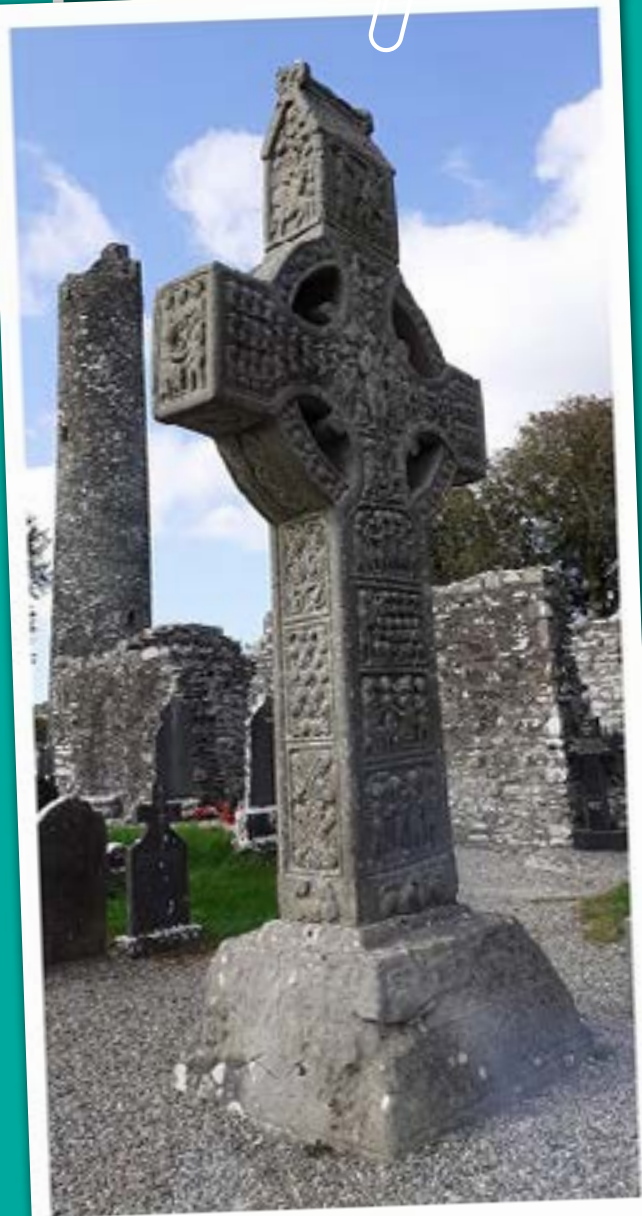


EXPERIENCE
Glasnevin
IRELAND'S NATIONAL CEMETERY



HIGH CROSSES

Did You Know?

High Crosses are one of the oldest types of artwork in Ireland.

01

The Stone

A ring of stone surrounds the arms of the cross itself. This also added support to the main part of the cross.

02

The Date

Many impressive examples date from Early Christian Ireland. This is St. Muiredach's Cross in Co. Louth. It dates from either the 9th or 10th century.

03

The Height

St. Muiredach's Cross stands at over 5 metres tall!

04

The Details

Scenes from the Bible were skilfully carved into the stone by stonemasons.



Teaching

At the time only a very small number of people could read or write, so the carved scenes were used to teach people about the Bible.



Carvings

Very skilled stonemasons worked to carve these detailed scenes.



Design

High Crosses are also called Celtic Crosses because of the Celtic designs they feature.

Did You Know?

Glasnevin Cemetery is home to one of the largest collections of Celtic Crosses in the world, which were inspired by amazing examples from the past.

Do you notice anything unusual about the cross on the next page?

William Pearse

This cross on the left was created by William Pearse. William was a highly trained artist and was also the younger brother of Patrick Pearse. Their father, James, was a stonemason.

The sign for Pearse & Sons still stands above the door in Dublin where their sculpture business stood.

This cross stands in Glasnevin Cemetery and features the signature of William Pearse. It is very detailed in design and has unusual side wings. This cross was so highly thought of that the headstone of President Seán T. Ó Ceallaigh (the second President of Ireland) was based on this design.

William was stationed in the GPO during the 1916 Rising. Both Patrick and William were sentenced to death in the aftermath.

Image courtesy of the Pearse Museum



Look Closely

This detail is taken from a different cross that was also carved by Pearse & Sons. The panels on the base focus on St. Patrick. What details can you pick out?

Let's get creative!

Fill in the template below and design a High Cross

