

Church of Our Lady of Hanswijk

This baroque pilgrimage church designed by Lucas Faydherbe was one of the first domed churches in the Low Countries. The dome was to have been even higher, but the substructure proved not to be sufficiently robust. Architect and church engaged in a bitter battle about additional reinforcements.

Inside under the dome are two huge reliefs, also by Faydherbe, believed by everyone to be sandstone until the bombing raids in the Second World War. But sandstone would have been too heavy, so the resourceful Faydherbe had used gypsum. Only when the damaged reliefs were repaired did the deception come to light.

At the front of the church is a miraculous statue of the Virgin Mary which is carried in the annual Hanswijk procession. In 1985 the late Pope John Paul II prayed in this church, whose status was elevated to that of a basilica two years later.

The Hanswijk Procession takes place on the Sunday before Assumption.

In the Arsenaal district, just outside the city centre, you can also visit **the Chapel of Our Lady of Hanswijk** (O.L.V.-van-Hanswijkkapel). This neo-Gothic chapel dates from 1913 and was recently renovated by local residents. It marks the precise spot where veneration of the Virgin Mary first began in Mechelen. Some time around the year 900, a statue of Mary was unloaded here from a ship so that it would not lie so low in the water and could continue on its way. You can visit the chapel on Sundays from May to September from 2 to 4 pm

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Opening hours

Zomerperiode (01/04-31/10)

Monday	09:00 - 17:00
Tuesday	09:00 - 17:00
Wednesday	09:00 - 17:00
Thursday	09:00 - 17:00
Friday	09:00 - 17:00

Friday	09:00 - 17:00
Saturday	09:00 - 17:00
Sunday	09:00 - 17:00

Winterperiode (01/11-31/03)

Monday	09:00 - 16:00
Tuesday	09:00 - 16:00
Wednesday	09:00 - 16:00
Thursday	09:00 - 16:00
Friday	09:00 - 16:00
Saturday	09:00 - 16:00
Sunday	09:00 - 16:00

► More time information

► more information for groups and schools

Price

► more information for groups and schools

Comfort

Accessibility



Services



Where?

Hanswijkstraat 67, Mechelen

Map



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Contact

T +32 15 29 40 32

@ info@torensaandedijle.be (<mailto:info@torensaandedijle.be>)

W <https://torensaandedijle.mechelen.be/nl/onze-lieve-vrouw-van-hanswijkbasiliek> (<https://torensaandedijle.mechelen.be/nl/onze-lieve-vrouw-van-hanswijkbasiliek>)



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