



Swiss
Paraplegic
Centre

What you will find in the room of silence

meet – listen – support

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Would you like a visit
or a chat?

We are the Hospital Pastoral Care service
for the SPC, and we are here for you!

+41 41 939 58 44 or
+41 41 939 58 43



An interfaith spiritual space, which is open to all

Patients, relatives and employees
of various faiths and cultures
spend time at the Swiss Paraplegic
Centre.

The room of silence is an interfaith
space for peace and prayer, where
you can draw strength, meditate
or light a candle.

Church services are also held here.
Please see the notices and the
schedule of church services.

The “Chemp” Stone

The sculptor Lilian H. Zürcher from Schüpbach found this “**Chemp**” (unhewn stone) in a gravel pit in Baar and sculpted it. The stone, which is composed of Alpine chalk, represents steadfastness, stability and the permanence of ancient things. Water cleanses, quenches thirst, reflects the heavens and represents life. We would like to welcome you here to enjoy a moment of calm, shed your sorrow and draw on new strength.



Altar

The **altar** illustrates the vulnerability of human existence. The artist Kurt Sigrist from Sarnen sawed it out of a tropical tree trunk in 1990. Its core or nerve centre is disrupted. Thanks to the supporting strut at the side, it has become whole again.

The **curved rear wall** with its overhead skylight liberates the soul and opens up the view to the heavens.

The **Easter Candle** burns during Christian church services and masses. It serves as a reminder of Christ's resurrection.



Tabernacle

The consecrated hosts for the Catholic Eucharistic celebration are kept in the translucent **tabernacle** that is suffused with light.

The **chalice**, in the form of a cross, acts as a reminder of Jesus' suffering and death.



Prayer niche

The **prayer space** faces east. The Islamic prayer niche points in the direction of Mecca for Muslims.

The Hebrew inscription "misrach" means "east" and indicates to Jewish believers the direction of prayer to the Temple in Jerusalem.

Many Muslim and Jewish believers use a **prayer mat** when they pray.





Organ

The **organ** was built by organ builder Heinrich Pürro from Willisau in 1996. It has five registers and around 280 pipes constructed from tin and wood. It is powered by traditional wind power and played during Christian services and masses.

House of Hinduism

Hindus generally call their religion "Sanatana Dharma" = "eternal duty". Hinduism encompasses various religious traditions. The majority of Hindus start from the premise that life and death are part of a continuous cycle. They believe in reincarnation.

The most important **Hindu gods** are Shiva, the creator, preserver and destroyer; Brahma, the creator of

the new world; Vishnu, who is responsible for preserving the world; Krishna, the reincarnation of Vishnu; and the elephant god Ganesha, who overcomes obstacles and protects travellers.

If you press the electric switch an **om tone** will sound. Om is the primordial sound of creation and all forms of mediation. Both Hindus and Buddhists consider it to be a holy sound.



House of Buddhism

Buddhists invoke the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, who lived 2500 years ago in northern India. At the heart of Buddhist teaching lies the Truth of Suffering and the surmounting of it.

The **white Buddha** figure embodies compassion. Buddha listens to people and teaches that we must show compassion to people and animals.

In Buddhism, the **lotus flower** indicates heavenly purity and enlightenment; for Hindus, it represents beauty, holiness and abundance.



House of Islam

Islam is a monotheistic religion that was founded early in the 7th century in Arabia by the Prophet Mohammed.

The Arabic term Islām means "submission (to God)", "utter devotion (to God)". The most important textual basis of Islam is the **Quran**.

For Muslims, this is the direct word of God: Allah revealed it to the Prophet Mohammed, who recorded it.

Muslims place the Quran on a **Quran rehal, or stand**, because of its sacredness. The Quran is read from back to front and from right to left.



House of Christianity

The **Bible** is a collection of writings and is, for Christians, the foundation of their faith.

The Old Testament corresponds very closely to the Jewish Torah and was already considered a sacred script at

the time of Jesus and the first Christians. The basis of the Christian faith is the belief in the one God who lived among men as Jesus of Nazareth.

Faith in Him underpins the writings of the New Testament.

House of Judaism

The most important sacred script in Judaism is the **Tanakh**, also known as the **Torah** or the Hebrew Bible. It is divided into three parts: the Torah (instruction), Nevi'im (Prophets) and Ketuvim (writings). It is read from back to front and from right to left.

According to the Torah, the history of the Jewish people begins with the covenant that God makes with Abraham.

The **Star of David** symbolises the relationship between people and God in all four directions of Heaven, as well as Heaven and Earth.



Open areas

You may place personal objects, such as farewell photos, flowers, icons, etc., in the open spaces above the shelves for a temporary period.

Write your personal concerns, wishes and prayers in the **Book of Utterances**.



Candle table

At the **candle table**, you can light a candle for anyone you want to receive strength, hope, or a “light in the darkness”. Please leave a donation of CHF 1.– in the **candle donation box** next to the door as you leave the room.



Devotional texts and church services

You will find **various contemplative texts** on the information stand. Please help yourself to them. The **current church service schedule** can also be found there. Services are open to the public, and everyone is welcome. We would love you to join us.

The SPC's healthcare chaplaincy is responsible for the quiet room.

We are here for you.

Information & contact

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