

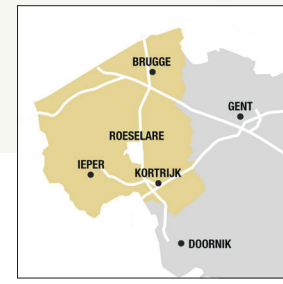
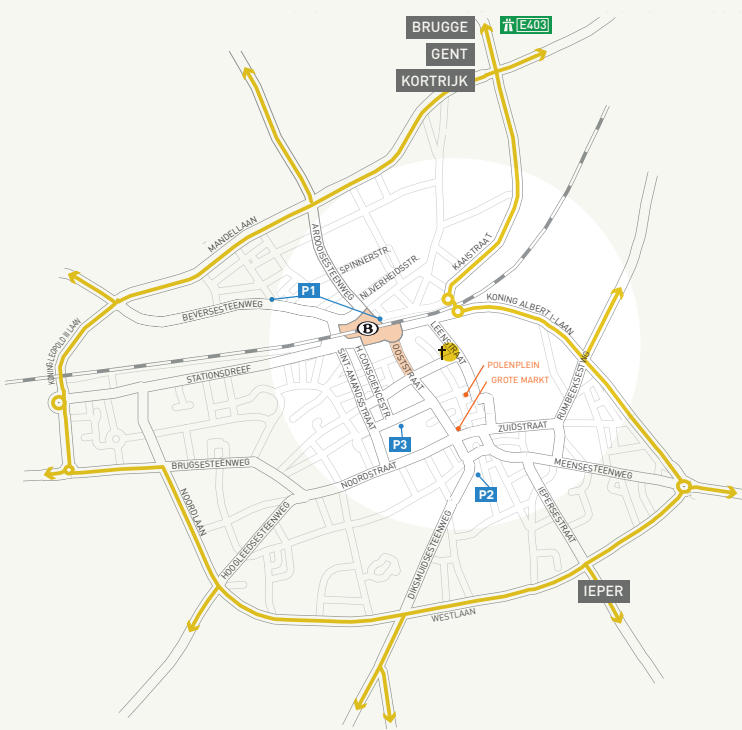
*"If there is anybody who can dispense with the sign of the cross it has to be Merckx. You cannot make amends for being out of shape and condition with a spot of religion."*



*"Cycling is a Religion". Keep careful track of the work via [www.wieletermuseum.be/onderweg](http://www.wieletermuseum.be/onderweg) is in progress, the Fathers' Church will be used as the new temporary setting for the exhibition. While the work The Roeselare Cycling Museum (Polenplein) is now being completely refurbished.*

Cycling means going to extremes and repeatedly going beyond the limits. The victors are the ones who are best at enduring suffering. Cyclists are people on the move, who are destined to triumph at one point and suffer horrendous pain at another. Palm Sunday and Good Friday all in the very same competition. It is no wonder that cycling in Catholic Flanders is seen as an authentic religion, with the Tour of Flanders as nothing less than a ritual gathering. Intriguing link between the world of cycling and spiritual matters. In the Fathers' Church you will be invited to undertake a pilgrimage in the various cycling chapels, where you will have the opportunity to reflect upon fairground races, the cycling gods, religious cyclists, the superstitions of cyclists, doping sinners, cycling pilgrimage destinations and ... the Tour of Flanders as a ritual gathering. As you make your way around, you are sure to be impressed by outstanding cycling outfits, the cycling way of the cross, the victory cups, a peloton of cycling gods and the impressive "Croix de Fer".

# CYCLING IS A RELIGION



- + Paterskerk
- Stationsparking
- Wallenparking
- Parking De Munt

**CYCLING IS A RELIGION**

**Paterskerk (Fathers' Church)**  
Delaerestraat 33  
8800 Roeselare  
[www.cyclingisreligion.be](http://www.cyclingisreligion.be)  
32 (0)51 26 87 40

**OPENING HOURS**

**Mar-Sep:**  
Monday-Sunday,  
10 am-5 pm

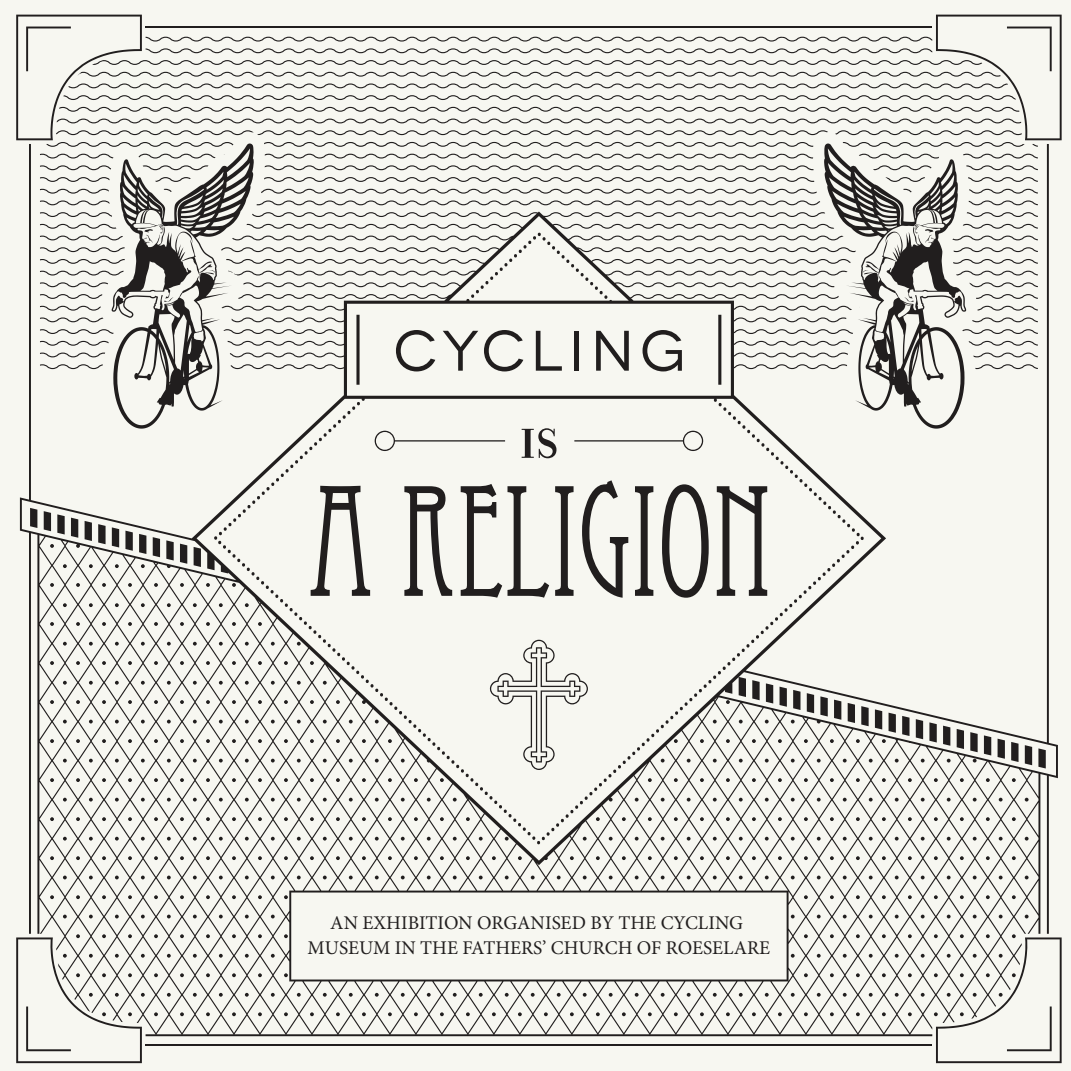
**Oct-Feb:**  
Monday-Saturday,  
10 am-5 pm

**FREE**  
voluntary donation

groups, schools  
and guided group  
visits by appointment

wheelchair accessible

Editor responsible: Luc Martens, Botermarkt 2, 8800 Roeselare / design: houtkaazeven.be



# MAP

## THE WAY OF THE CROSS

VIA DOLOROSA OF THE CYCLISTS

Station I to XIV: see map

Victory chalices

Cycling robes

Croix de Fer

Peloton of cycling gods

Museum shop

Museum garden

The Fathers' Church  
also houses the Roeselare  
Tourist Office.

32 (0)51 26 96 00  
www.toerismeroelare.be  
toerisme@roeselare.be

ENTRANCE

## THE PILGRIMAGE

A PROCESSION OF CYCLING  
CHAPELS

**I Ritual gathering in Flanders**  
*The Tour of Flanders, the ritual  
springtime cycling gathering*

**II Fairground race**  
*The race can be traced  
back to the fairground*

**III Pilgrimage destinations**  
*Must-visit sites for  
all cycling enthusiasts*

**IV Fate**  
*Death races too*

**V Cycling gods**  
*From local gods to  
Miracle Merckx*

**VI Cycling and the church**  
*Cycling as the church's  
representative*

**VII Living like a monk**  
*A cyclist's hermit-like  
existence*

**VIII Religious cyclists**  
*Scapulars, rosaries and  
patron saints*

**IX Sinners**  
*Doping, a mortal sin*

**X Superstitious cyclists**  
*Competitor number 13,  
the rainbow curse and  
other misfortunes*

"We were like gods for the spectators, the only gods they could see up  
close and with whom they could exchange a few words."

BRIEK SCHOTTE