



ST JOHN PARLOUR

Like the adjacent Balcony Room, the vaulted ceiling of this room is decorated with refined plasterwork dating from 1616. More recent, however, are the four rectangular pictures set into the stucco. They were painted at the end of the 1800s, at the time of the Savoy monarchs, to celebrate the royal palaces of Turin, Florence, Venice and Naples.

According to the original 17th Century project, this room was destined to be a private chapel of the Pope but was instead used as a service room for the sacristy. Today it is only a connecting room but it nonetheless contains two items of particular importance. The octagonal table dates from the mid-1500s and is a splendid example of refined coloured marble marquetry. The gilt wooden base, in the shape of an intertwined pair of dolphins, dates from a later period and it too is of highly refined craftsmanship. The painting on wood is an old copy of Raphael's St John the Baptist in the Desert. The excellent quality of the 16th Century masterpiece has led to it being attributed to, among others, Giulio Romano, Raphael's most gifted student.