

Pordenone, Church of Santa Maria degli Angeli or del Cristo

The church of Santa Maria degli Angeli is also known as the Church of Christ for the beautifully carved and polychrome crucifix, recently restored, which towers over the high altar, commissioned in 1446 to Giovanni Teutonico. The building, built in the 14th century, served as a chapel to the nearby hospice-hospital dedicated to Santa Maria degli Angeli, founded by the Confraternity of the Battuti which had its headquarters right in front of the church entrance. The church still preserves numerous fourteenth-century frescoes by various craftsmen and then from the early 1500s (*Santa Barbara* of Gianfrancesco da Tolmezzo). The entrance portal, carved in Istrian stone, was commissioned to the Pilacorte in 1510. In 1665 the building became the chapel of the monastery of the Augustinian nuns and, when they moved to the Dominican convent, in about 1760, it returned to be the hospital chapel. In 1760 it had various architectural modifications that gave it its current neoclassical appearance: the rose window of the facade and the pointed arch windows were walled up, the hall was enlarged and the roof was raised.

Serious structural damage to the building was caused by the bombing of the Second World War, from which only the side walls were saved. The church was soon rebuilt and reopened for worship in June 1946 by Bishop Vittorio D'Alessi. In 1947 the artist Tiburzio Donadon painted on the ceiling the fresco of the Assumption, replacing the previous work by Pietro Venier, destroyed by bombing. During the restorations carried out between 1967 and 1968 a fascinating cycle of frescoes with a sacred theme, dating from the 14th century, was brought to light. Following the terrible earthquake that struck Friuli in 1976, the church underwent a further architectural restoration that restored the physiognomy we can still admire today.

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