

Pordenone, Church of San Giorgio and bell tower

A primitive oratory of San Giorgio is mentioned in 1347 in the will of Ricchiero Ricchieri, who provided a sum of money for its maintenance. In 1588, following the enlargement of the city, it was elevated to a parish. The building was then enlarged in 1625 and again starting from 1792 on the initiative of Don Lorenzo Grigoletti, uncle of the painter Michelangelo; the renovation was completed only in 1873, when the monument was consecrated and the neoclassical facade designed by the Pordenone artist Giobatta Bassi (1792-1879) was completed. Inside the church many works of art are still preserved, such as the great altarpiece dedicated to San Giorgio by the Pordenone painter Gasparo Narvesa (1558-1639), the altarpiece of Sant'Anna and that of Santa Lucia by Michelangelo Grigoletti (1801- 1870) and the altarpiece of Saint Anthony by Pio Rossi (1886-1969). The interior frescoes, with scenes of the Annunciation in the apse arch and other depictions of saints and angels in the vault of the nave, were made by the artist Tiburzio Donadon and were inaugurated in 1941.

During the Second World War, in 1945, a bomb broke the roof, falling to the floor without exploding. In 1975 a general restoration of the building was started, it was carried out mainly the maintenance of the roof, partial reconstruction of the external plaster and exterior painting. The temple was inaugurated on Christmas 1975, but the 1976 earthquake caused further damages to its structure. Between 2001 and 2002, the building underwent further consolidation and conservative restoration.

The bell tower, begun in 1852 to a design by Giovanni Battista Bassi (1792-1879), looks like a Doric column, completed in 1914, later surmounted by a belfry upon which a globe is imposed, supported by four Atlases, designed by Domenico Rupolo and Luigi Salice. On the globe there is currently a statue of St. George by Pierino Sam and Giulio Piccini, which in 1961 replaced the previous one by Vincenzo Rinaldo and Giovanni Durighello.

Curated by: Dr. Martina Solerte and Dr. Nicoletta Rigoni
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