

San Giorgio e Martiri Inglesi



San Giorgio e dei Martiri Inglesi is an early 20th century convent church, just north of the bottom of the Spanish Steps. This is an English national church.

The dedication is to St George and to the English Martyrs of the Reformation, and the name in English is "St George and the Martyrs of England". The latter are now all those martyred for the faith in England after the Reformation, whether canonized or beatified, but no longer includes the six martyred in Wales. This is because Wales now has its own national calendar. Confusingly, the convent as a whole is dedicated to Mary, Mother of God and its name is Istituto Mater Dei.

History

The congregation of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God was founded in 1869 in London, England by Mother [Magdalen Taylor](#), an Englishwoman who in secular life had worked with

Florence Nightingale in the Crimean War. She was assisted by Lady [Georgiana Fullerton](#), who was a noted religious novelist of the time.

The congregation received papal approval in 1879, and a convent was opened in Rome in 1887. This was paid for by Prince Alessandro Torlonia, and the Fullerton family of English Catholic gentry (Georgiana had just died). It was rebuilt by **Carlo Maria Busiri Vici** in 1908, resulting in the present structure.

Like most active religious orders of women, the congregation has suffered a serious reduction in vocations since the mid 20th century. It used to run two schools in the Diocese of Rome as well as this convent, but the former have been given up. Only two sisters are now listed as resident in the diocese.

The mother house is the Mayfield Convent at Roehampton, London SW15 4JA, England.

Exterior

The church has no façade, but a simple entrance with a round-arched floating brick canopy enclosing a tympanum mosaic showing the Sacred Initials (IHS) with rays.

Interior

The high altar is from the demolished church of Santa Teresa alle Quattro Fontane, and donated by Prince Torlonia who had bought it at auction. The painting of *St Gregory the Great* is by **Cesare Dies**.

The two side altars, of Our Lady and the Sacred Heart, came from the demolished church of Sant'Elisabetta dei Fornari.

The mural frescoes are by **Eugenio Cisterna**.

Artists and Architects:

Eugenio [Cisterna](#) (1865-1933), Italian **painter** & mosaic designer
 Cesare Dies (20th cent), painter
 Carlo Maria [Busiri Vici](#) (1856-1925), Italian architect

Location:

Address: Via di San Sebastianello 16, 00187 Roma

Coord: [41° 54' 24.2" N, 12° 28' 57.2" E](#)

The convent containing the church is at the end of the right hand side of the street, just before it turns a right angle to the left and goes up a ramp.

Info:

tel. 06-67.90.634

Links and sources:

1. http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/San_Giorgio_e_dei_Martiri_Inglesì
2. <http://www.gcatholic.org/churches/rome/695.htm>