

## San Giuseppe di Cluny



**San Giuseppe di Cluny** is a modern church on the Esquiline, and due east of the Domus Aurea.

### History:

It was designed by Luca Carimini in a rather severe and not-quite-correct neo-Classical style. Construction began in 1884 and completed in 1890 for the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny. This is a French missionary sisterhood founded at Cluny in 1807, at a time when the great abbey church there was still being plundered for roadstone. It was consecrated by Cardinal Lucido Maria Parocchi in 1900.

### Exterior:

The church's plan is of a short rectangle, with an attached five-sided apse and the left hand side wall parallel with the street. The right hand wall is attached to the convent buildings. There is a crypt at ground level, hence the actual church is raised above the street. The nave and apse roofs are pitched and tiled, and the exterior walls are mostly in red brick with a few architectural details in travertine.

The entrance is accessed through a pair of iron gates in a screen wall (the street number 36/A is next to these). Turning left, one is faced with the crypt entrance with a stone-framed circular window above it. To reach the doorway, one ascends a double set of transverse stairs beginning to the left and right outside this entrance. These have a return before reaching the church entrance, and have open balustrades enclosing fretted ironwork with a quatrefoil design.

The entrance has an open external porch, on four Ionic grey granite columns the inner two of which are engaged with the façade wall. They support an arched canopy with a flat roof, the sides and spandrels of which are decorated with a cross-and-roundel motif. The intrados of the arch is coffered. The façade itself is two-storeyed, separated by a thin stone string-course running at the level of the porch roof. The corners of the first storey are occupied by a pair of square brick Doric

pilasters with their own projecting cornices, and in between these and the entrance is a pair of smallish arched windows in brick. Either side of the entrance is a pair of framed arched niches with scallop decoration in their conchs, and above these is a pair of small rectangular windows with triangular pediments. Inserted between the pediments and the string course are (incorrectly) entablature fragments. The second storey has two recessed round windows in stone frames either side of a central arched window with column pilasters and a triangular pediment. This arched window is flanked by a pair of arched niches, these with column pilasters also and with semi-circular arched pediments crowned with acanthus leaves. The outer corners of this storey again have square pilasters, with stone plinths and capitals and supporting an entablature and triangular pediment entirely in brick, including the dentillate cornice. There is a round window without a frame in the pediment.

There is a campanile towering above the convent building next to the church, a square brick tower with the bell-chamber having arched soundholes and stone pilasters at its corners. There is an octagonal spirelet in led, crowned by a ball and cross.

**Interior:**

The interior has three naves with an apse, where is placed a mosaic *Ascension of Jesus among the Apostles*.

The crypt has a reproduction of the grotto at Lourdes.

**Location:**

Addr: 32 Via Angelo Poliziano, Rome

Coordinates: [41° 53' 30.8214"N. 12° 30' 2.3976"E](#)

**Links:**

[http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/San\\_Giuseppe\\_di\\_Cluny](http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/San_Giuseppe_di_Cluny)

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