

# San Benedetto fuori Porta San Paolo



**St. Benedict outside the Porta San Paolo** is a modern parish and titular church at Via del Gazometro 23 in the Ostiense district, near the Ostiense train and metro stations. The parish is administered by the Compagnia di San Paolo, and is dedicated to St Benedict of Nursia. (1)

## **History:**

Pius X in 1912 had purchased land to build a church in the Ostiense district, near the gasometer, to provide for the spiritual life of the people living there in the recently populated area, but died before he could see the work begin. (1)

His successor Benedict XV had the intention of his predecessor, and he wanted it begin the project of the Church and of the buildings for the parish, and work started. The Church was to be dedicated to the saint from which the Pope had taken his name. It was designed by Clemente Busiri Vici.

Due to a combination of adverse circumstances the work proceeded very slowly. When Pope Benedict XV died in 1922 there were only the pillars and the roof completed. It was only in 1925, under the pontificate of Pius XI, who worked to complete the church, which was officially consecrated in the parish June 3rd 1926. (3) (4)

Today the parish is entrusted to priests of the Society of St. Paul, and is home of the titular church "St. Benedict outside the Porta San Paolo". (3)

### **Exterior:**

Built on a rectangular plan with aisles and a semi-circular apse. The style is neo-Romanesque, rendered in brown brick with some architectural details in stone. The façade has the first storey, to the flat rooflines of the aisles, in blank brick except for four equal sized arches for the entrance (all in brick). Along the entire width of the façade at the aisle rooflines is a stone frieze bearing a dedicatory inscription and above this, on the second storey nave frontage, is an outline pediment in stone above the three arches. This pediment is duplicated at the gable. The nave frontage has no window, but instead a round coat of arms in stone with a stepped brick frame, and another coat of arms (of standard shield form) pendant from the cornice of the upper pediment.

There is a campanile attached to the right hand side of the nave a little way down from the entrance, this being a brick slab with a single rectangular pierced hole at the top containing the bells and with a small triangular pediment crowning it.

### **Interior:**

The aisle arcades are arches cut into the nave walls, not having pillars as such. However, pilasters of pink marble are attached to the walls between each pairs of arches, and these rise to the ceiling. There is a round-headed window above each arcade arch. The aisle walls and the wall around the apse arch are rendered in warm light brown, while the ceiling, apse (which lacks windows) and the last bay of the nave are in white.

The left hand aisle is a series of four chapels.

The first one is dedicated to the Sacred Heart, with a mosaic by Armando Baldinelli.

The next chapel has a Madonna and Child by Silvio Consadori of 1951, and the one after that St Joseph with the Boy Jesus by Filocamo Luigi of 1953.

Over the altar is a pillared shrine containing a painting of St Benedict by Ferruccio Terrazzi, and there is a statue of the saint in the right aisle.

A plaque at the back of the church remembers the visit by John Paul II February 14 1988 . (3)

### **Artists and Architects:**

Armando [Baldinelli](#) (1908-2002), Italian painter, mosaicist

Clemente [Busiri Vici](#) (1887-1965), Italian architect

Enrico [Manfrini](#) (1917-2004), Italian sculptor

Ferruccio [Ferrazzi](#) (1891-1978), Italian painter

Luigi [Filocamo](#) (1906-1988), Italian painter

Silvio [Consadori](#) (1909-1994), Italian painter

### **Location:**

Address: Via del Gazometro, 23 00154 Rome

Coord: [41° 52' 17.5"N, 12° 28' 43.1"E](#)

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parrocchia.sanbenedetto @ gmail.com (the parish priest Don Paolo Gessaga)

**Links and sources:**

1. [http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/San\\_Benedetto\\_fuori\\_Porta\\_San\\_Paolo](http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/San_Benedetto_fuori_Porta_San_Paolo)
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