

## San Tommaso in Parione



San Tommaso in Parione, which is one of the two national churches of Ethiopia, is dedicated to St Thomas the Apostle. (1)

### **History:**

The church has ancient origins, but is first documented in 1139, when it was consecrated by Pope Innocent II. It seems certain that this was a reconsecration after a rebuilding or enlargement of the church. (1)

In 1449, Pope Nicholas V granted the church to the Company of Scriptoris and Copyists of the Curia. St Philip Neri was ordained to the priesthood in the church in 1551. (1)

The present church is the result of a rebuilding in, 1582, to a design by Francesco Volterra, financed by Mario and Camillo Cerrini, wealthy merchants. There was also a restoration in 1848 by Antonio Cerrini. (1) (2) (8)

It was made a titular church in 1517. This status was kept until 1937, when Pope Pius XI suppressed it, owing to the state of disrepair the church was in. The title had, by then, been vacant since 1914. The title was eventually transferred to Chiesa Nuova. (1)

The church is served by the Cistercian Order. As it is also the national church of Ethiopia, Mass is celebrated according to both the Latin and Alexandrine (Coptic) rites. (1)

It was in this church that, in 1639, GianLorenzo Bernini married Caterina Terzio. (1)

### Exterior:

The 16<sup>th</sup> century brick and stone façade, which was designed by Jacopo del Duca, has two stories. The lower storey is divided into three sections with a doorway crowned (by a triangular pediment) in the centre with windows to either side. The upper storey is characterised by a large central window decorated on either side with shells (an attribute of St Thomas). It is crowned by a pediment with volutes at the sides. (1)

### Interior:

The nave has a nave and two aisles separated by pilasters with Ionic capitals. The nave has a visible tile roof, while the outer aisles have plaster ceilings. (1)

The high altar, set against the apse wall, has two marble columns on the sides and is crowned by a pediment. The 17<sup>th</sup> century altarpiece depicts *St Thomas*. On the sides are paintings of *Cardinal Gregorio Barbarigo* and *St Philip Neri*. (1)

On the second pillar of the nave is an inscription recording that S. Philip Neri received, in this church, Holy Orders. On the opposite pillar is a record of its consecration in 1139, and its repairs in 1656. (a)

In the left aisle are paintings of *St. Philip Neri receiving Orders*; of the *Death of St. Joseph*; and of *St. Nicholas of Bari*. (a)

On the left wall are frescoes from the pontificate of Innocent II (1130–1143). One of them depicts *St Martin of Tours Dividing his Cloak*. There are also paintings from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, of which *The Annunciation* by Giuseppe Passeri is the most notable. (1)

In the right aisle are paintings of *St. Charles Borromeo with St. Francesca Romana*, *S. Antony*, *S. Peter*, and *S. Aurelius*, whose body lies beneath the altar, with an ampulla containing some of his blood; of the *Madonna Adolorata*, in the chapel of the Crucifixion; and of the *Conception*, with a *Magdalen meeting our Lord*. (a)

The St. Nicholas of Bari and the Conception are by Pomerancie; and the St. Thomas is by Father Cosimo, a Cappuchin. (a)

### Artists and Architects:

Antonio [Cipolla](#) (1822-1874), Italian architect

Daniele Ricciarelli [da Volterra](#) (1509-1566), Italian Mannerist painter, sculptor and architect

Giacomo (Jacopo) [del Duca](#) (1520-1601), Italian sculptor and architect of the late-Renaissance or Mannerist period.

Giuseppe [Passeri](#) (1654-1714), Italian painter and architect of the Baroque period

### Burials: (2)

Andrea [Sacchi](#) (1599-1661), Italian painter of High Baroque

Giovanni Battista [Gauli](#), aka *Bacivvia* (1639-1709), Italian painter of the High Baroque

**Location:**

Address: Via Parione 33, 00186 Roma

Coord: [41° 53' 54.7"N, 12° 28' 14.3"E](#)

**Info:**

Phone: 0039 06 68 69 540

**Opening times**

The church is normally only open to the public between the 20th and 28th of September.

**Links and sources:**

1. [http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/San\\_Tommaso\\_in\\_Parione](http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/San_Tommaso_in_Parione)
  2. [http://www.info.roma.it/monumenti\\_dettaglio.asp?ID\\_schede=797](http://www.info.roma.it/monumenti_dettaglio.asp?ID_schede=797)
  3. <http://www.060608.it/en/cultura-e-svago/luoghi-di-culto-di-interesse-storico-artistico/chiese-cattoliche/san-tommaso-in-parione.html>
  4. <http://www.romeartlover.it/Vasi110.htm#Tommaso>
  5. <http://www.gcatholic.org/churches/rome/854.htm>
  6. [http://www.tesoridiroma.net/chiese\\_rinascimento/tommaso\\_parione.html](http://www.tesoridiroma.net/chiese_rinascimento/tommaso_parione.html)
  7. <http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/diocese/d1t99.html>
  8. [http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&prev=/search%3Fq%3DCamillo%2BCerrini%2B%2Barchitect%26biw%3D1165%26bih%3D933&sl=it&u=http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camillo\\_Cerrini&sandbox=0&usg=ALkJrhK26gdSLtohHxSY6y\\_tZ-z3MIg8A](http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&prev=/search%3Fq%3DCamillo%2BCerrini%2B%2Barchitect%26biw%3D1165%26bih%3D933&sl=it&u=http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camillo_Cerrini&sandbox=0&usg=ALkJrhK26gdSLtohHxSY6y_tZ-z3MIg8A)
- a. Donovan, Jeremiah; ROME ANCIENT AND MODERN AND ITS ENVIRONS; 1842

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