

San Tommaso ai Cenci



San Tommaso ai Cenci is a church of Rome in Rione Regola dedicated to St Thomas the Apostle. The church is situated in the rione Regola, located in the Piazza Cenci; a side exit leads into Piazza delle Cinque Scole in the rione Sant'Angelo.

History

The church was built in the 12th century for the workers on the wheat mills on the Tiber.

In 1554 P. Julius III granted it to Cardinal Rocco Cenci to include it in the new family palace that was being built. In 1575, it was restored by Francesco Cenci, whose family owned the nearby Palazzo Cenci Bolognetti, and became the Cenci family's chapel.

Francesco Cenci was banished from Rome by the Pope in 1590. He was cruel to his family, and in 1598 his son Giacomo killed him and tried to make it look like an accident. His plan failed, and in 1599 Giacomo, his sister Beatrice (Bernice) and their mother were executed for murder. The youngest of the children, Bernardo, was imprisoned for life. After the fall of that family, the

Confraternita dei Vetturini (Confraternity of Coachmen) used it, and said Mass here on the anniversary of the Cenci executions, on September 11. Beatrice is buried in San Pietro in Montorio.

The church was built at the palace of the Cenci at the banks of the Tiber, where in the Middle Ages were the mole in the Tiber, which gave the church the title *in molarum head* (*the head of the mole*).

It also had the nickname of *St. Thomas fraternitatis* as it was for a time, the seat of *the Roman Fraternitas*, one of the most important and ancient Roman associations.

Exterior:

The façade includes two portals surmounted by triangular tympani. On top of it, in correspondence with the latter ones, one finds two round oculi and two small windows. In the middle there is a decorated frame that once embodied a fresco by now disappeared.

Between the two portals of the facade is the funerary inscription of the Roman *Marcus Cincius Theophilus*, for the similarity with his own name was placed in the walled Cenci here.

Interior:

The interior has a rectangular plan and the main altar preserves a round Turchina Murra, a variety of very rare marble, the only one that is known in Rome.

Underneath the altar is an urn in which, according to customs, the unlucky Beatrice Cenci was supposedly baptized.

In the first chapel on the left, *Stories of the Virgin* of Sermoneta (1585). Also in the church is *The Incredulity of St. Thomas*, signed by Giuseppe Vermiglio, and dated 1612.

Artists and Architects:

Agostino [Ciampelli](#) (1565-1630), Italian painter of the Baroque period.

Girolamo [Siciolante](#) da Sermoneta (1521-c.1580), Italian Mannerist painter

Giuseppe [Vermiglio](#) (c.1585-c.1635), Italian painter

Location:

Address: Piazza Cinque Scole 3, 00186 Roma

Coordinates: [41°53'32"N 12°28'34"E](#)

Info:

Telephone: 0039 06 68300055

Open times:

Every day 10.00am-12.00am

Thursday 5.00pm-7.00pm

Sunday closed

Links:

http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/San_Tommaso_ai_Cenci

http://www.info.roma.it/monumenti_dettaglio.asp?ID_schede=26

http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&ic=UTF8&prev=t&sl=it&tl=en&twu=1&u=http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiesa_di_San_Tommaso_ai_Cenci

<http://www.060608.it/en/cultura-e-svago/luoghi-di-culto-di-interesse-storico-artistico/chiese-cattoliche/san-tommaso-ai-cenci.html>

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