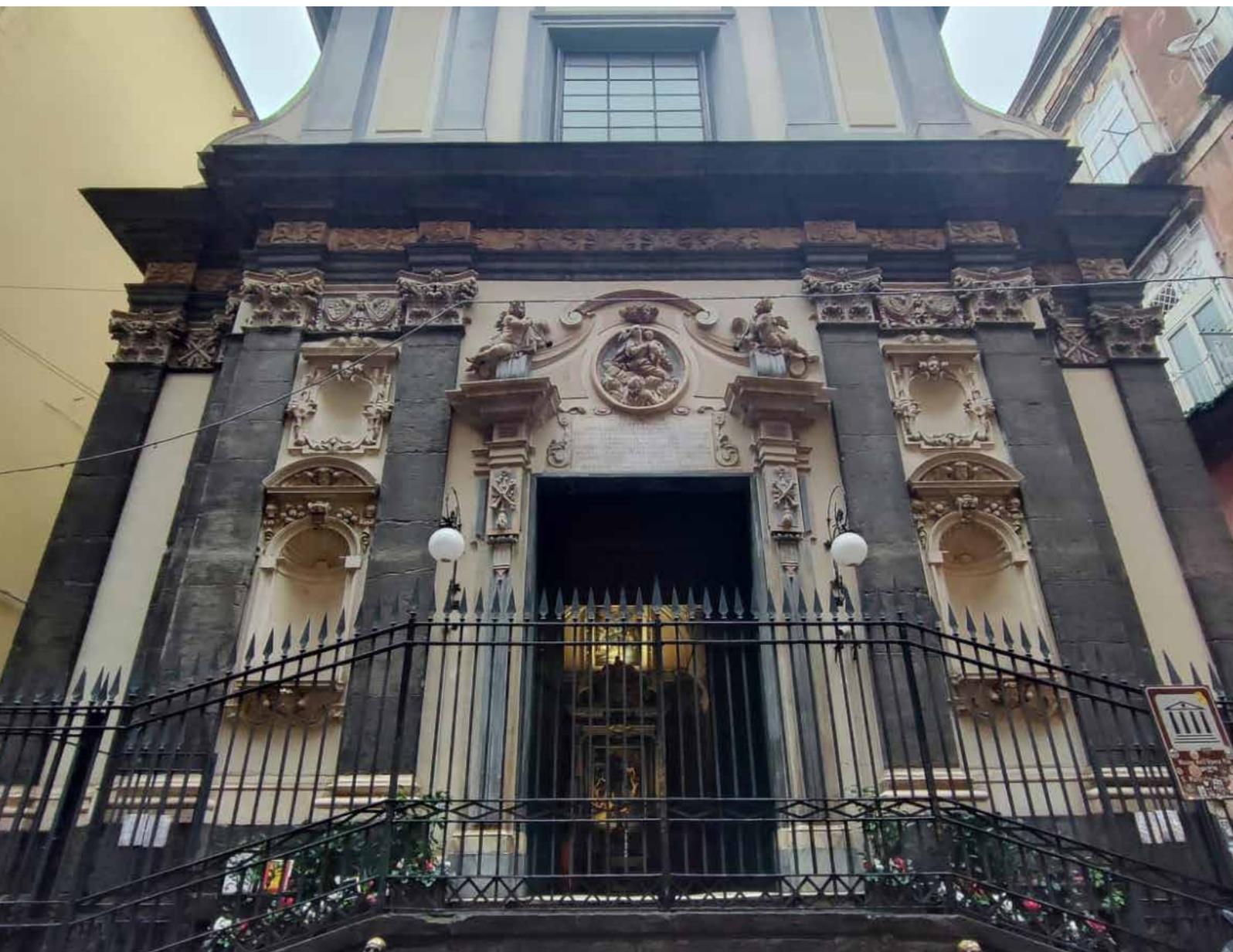




Museo per tutti

Accessibile alle persone con disabilità intellettiva



Complesso museale Santa Maria delle Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco

 Complesso museale
 Santa Maria delle Anime
 del Purgatorio ad Arco

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Project Management Carlo Riva

Graphic design and layout Paola Longobardi

Texts Veronica Cicalò, Marta Lanzini, Chiara Maria Piccoli

with the consultancy of the Educational Department team at Complesso museale Santa Maria delle Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco in Naples.

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This is the Museo per tutti guide for the Complesso museale Santa Maria delle Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco (Museum complex Saint Mary of the Purgatory Souls at Arco) in Naples. A complesso museale is made of many museum areas one close to the other.

This the **Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio**.

Inside this Complesso museale you can visit:

- the church of Santa Maria delle Anime del Purgatorio
- the Opera Pia Museum.

On the following pages you will find:

The social narrative to visit the Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio – Light blue pages



The **social narrative** explains:6

- how to buy your ticket
- which are the rules
- what to see
- who can help you

Two maps that can help you find the artworks

- map of the upper church 24
- map of the lower church 26



The history of the church – Orange pages



On these pages we explain:

- the church of the Anime del Purgatorio 29
- the history of the church of
the Anime del Purgatorio 33
- what is Anime del Purgatorio 37

The artworks at the church – Red pages



On these pages we tell you about:

The upper church 44

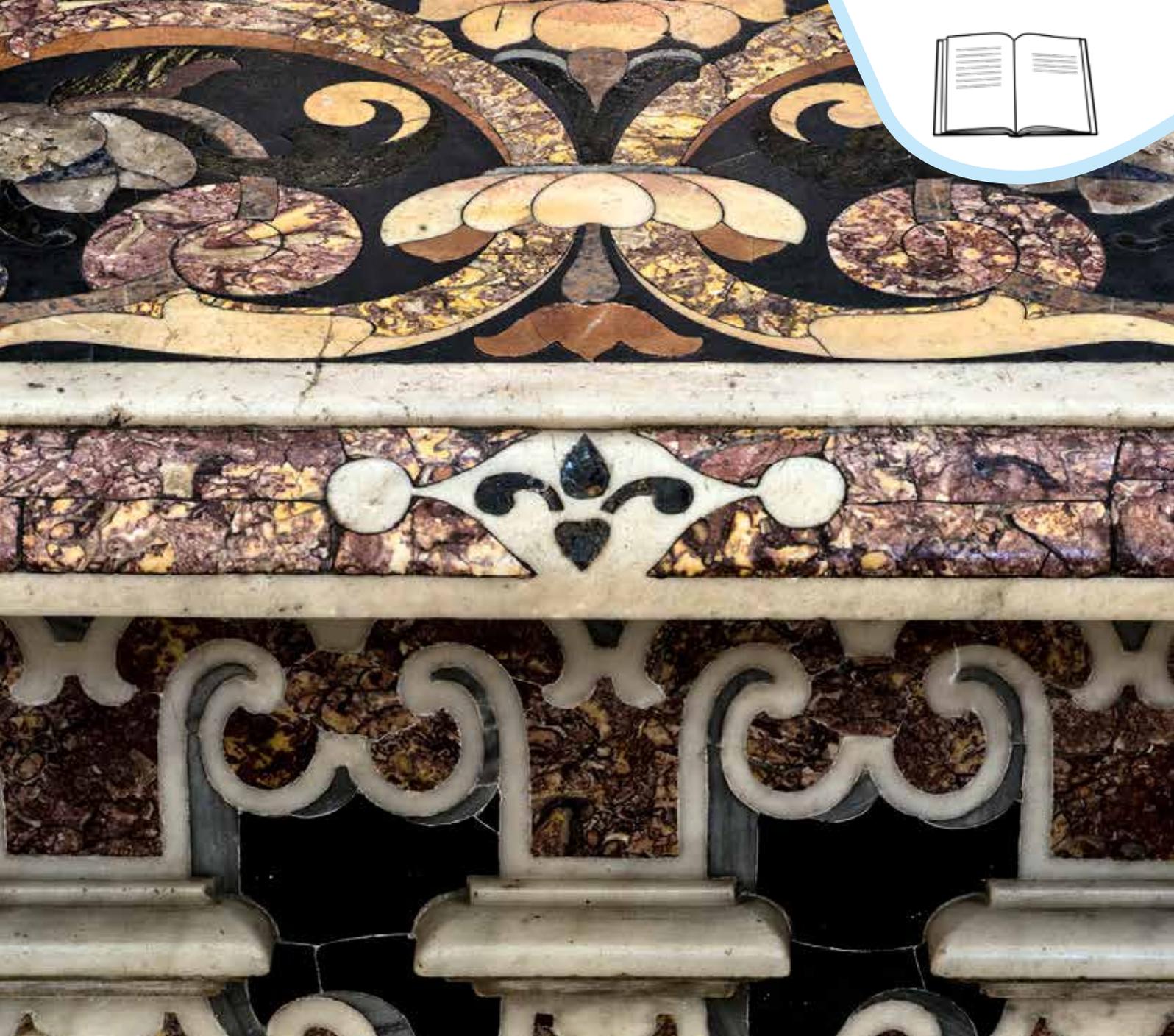
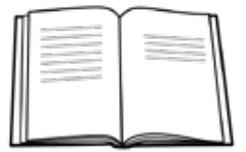
On these pages we explain what you can see
in this church:

1. **Madonna delle Anime Purganti 46**
2. **Giulio Mastrilli statue 51**
3. **High altar balustrade 54**
4. **Morte di San Giuseppe 57**
5. **Opera Pia Museum 62**
6. **Morte di Sant’Alessio 64**

The lower church 69

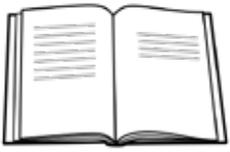
On these pages we explain what you can see
in this church:

7. **Altarino di Lucia 71**



The social narrative to visit the Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio



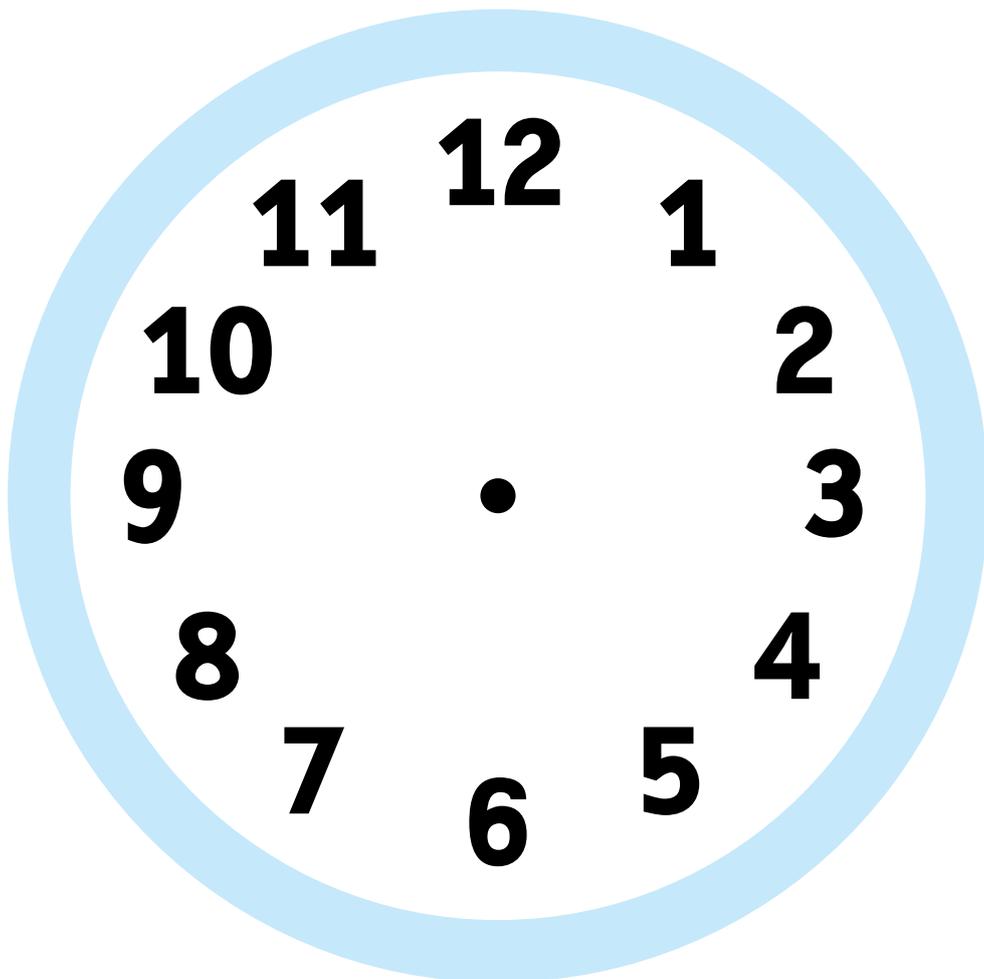


My name is

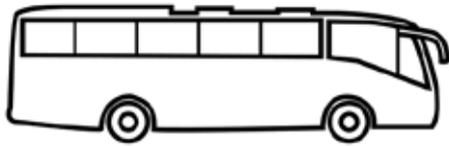
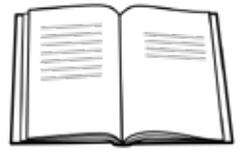
I'm going to visit the Complesso museale delle Anime
del Purgatorio ad Arco

on

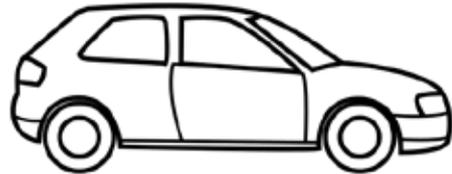
at



How do I get to the Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio?



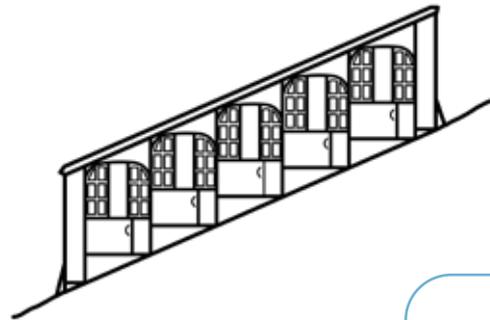
Pullman



Car



Train



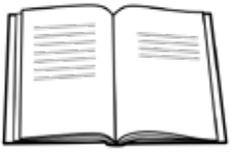
Cable car



Underground



On foot



1. Introduction





This guide is made to prepare your visit of the Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio.

A complesso museale is made of many museum areas one close to the other.

Inside this Complesso museale you can visit:

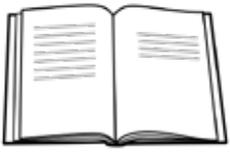
- the church of Santa Maria delle Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco, composed of an upper church and a lower church
- the Opera Pia Museum.



In this guide you will find:

- how to buy your ticket
- which are the rules
- what to see
- who can help you.

Find out what is a museum on page 10



What is a museum

A museum is a place where artworks or important and beautiful objects are kept, so that everybody can watch and study them.

A church can be a museum as well.

Those artworks and objects can be from a long time ago or from a short time ago.

In a museum you can see, for example:

Artworks like paintings or statues.

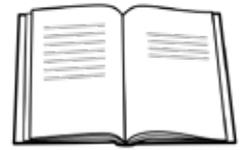


Objects like furniture, vases, glasses or clothes.



Parts of palaces, of houses or of churches.





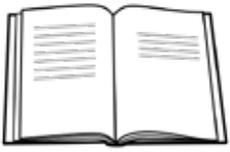
A museum can be made of a room, of a few rooms or of many rooms called halls.

Inside museums you can also find objects made and used by people that do not exist anymore.

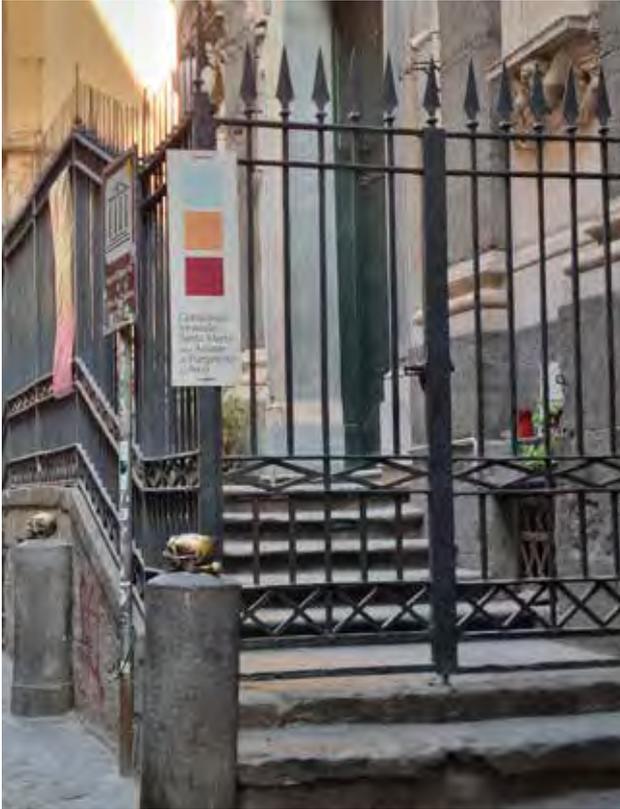
Those objects let you understand how those people used to live and their history.

History is the tale of the important things that happened a long time ago.





2. The entrance



This is the entrance of the Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio. Climb the stairs to get in.

At the entrance there are 2 different lines:

- **The line on the right is for those who visit only the upper church.**
This line lets you immediately into the upper church.
You don't need to buy a ticket to visit this church.
- **The line on the left is for those who visit the Opera Pia Museum and the lower church too.**
This line leads you to the ticket office, because you need to buy a ticket to visit the Opera Pia Museum and the lower church.



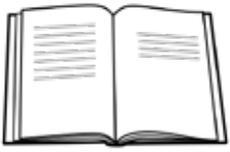
Our advice is to visit the Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio in the morning, on:

- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday

when the Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio is less crowded and you can visit it more easily.

Visit www.purgatorioadarco.it website and look for opening hours of Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio.

Opening hours can vary on holidays and during some year periods.



3. The ticket office



The ticket office of Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio is inside the church, on the left.

You don't need to buy a ticket to visit the upper church only.

You need to buy a ticket to visit the Opera Pia Museum and the lower church.



At the ticket office you will see this sign



It means that in this place they've thought of you.

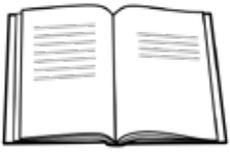
Here you can make all the questions you need,
and you can ask for help.

When you're at the ticket office

you must line up behind the people who arrived before you
and wait until all of them buy their tickets.

Here you may find many people and it can be very noisy.

When nobody is before you in the line, you can go to the person
behind the counter, who will give you your ticket.



4. Cloakroom

There is no cloakroom service at the Anime del Purgatorio.

If you're carrying a backpack or a heavy bag
you can ask the persons at the ticket office to keep it for you.
They will be happy to help you, if they can keep it.

5. The rules



- Walk slowly
- speak in a low voice
- you can take pictures with no flash:
 - in the upper church
 - in the lower church
 - in the Opera Pia Museum.
- where you see this sign, it means that you can't take pictures



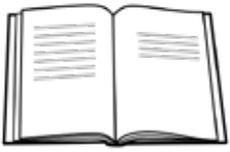
- you can't take suitcases or large bags with you
- you can't eat and you can't drink
- you can't touch artworks and skulls.

A skull is the head of a person who died
a long time ago.

Inside the Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio
there are many skulls.

Don't get scared.





6. What you can do inside the Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio



When you're inside the Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio you can

- visit the upper church
- visit the Opera Pia Museum and see many precious objects
- visit the lower church and watch the niches with skulls.

A niche is a hole made in the wall to put something important inside.



7. Who can help you?

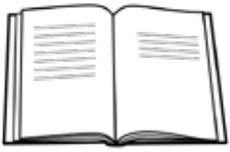


At the Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio there are some persons who can help you.

They have a badge with their name.

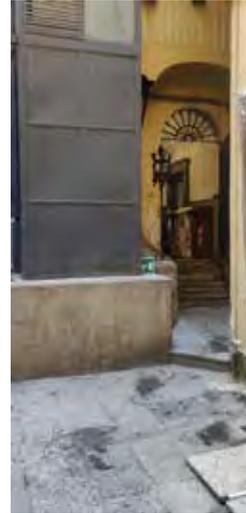
You can ask them questions and any information you need.

All those persons are happy that you visit Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio.



8. The bathrooms

If you need to go to the bathroom, you must go out of the sacristy and cross a small courtyard.



Take the lift to floor 2 or floor 3.

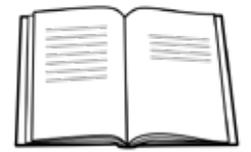
If you need help to find the bathrooms, ask the persons with a badge.



On floor 2 you find the bathrooms for men.

On floor 3 you find the bathrooms for women.

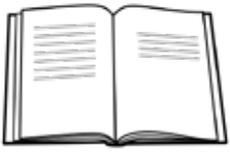




9. Where you can relax



You can relax in the upper church and take a rest on benches and chairs.

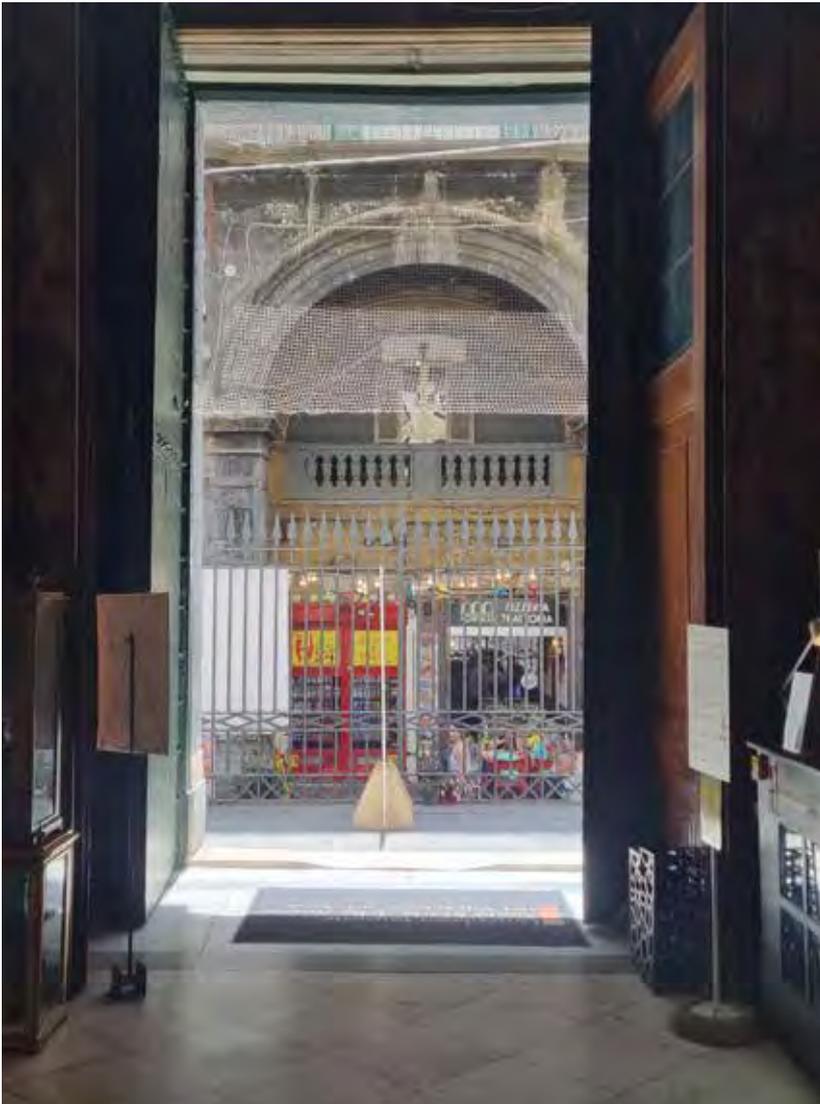
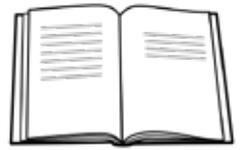


10. The shop



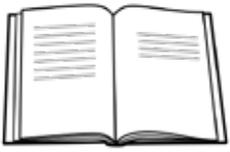
You can find the shop of the Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio in the upper church, at the ticket office. Here you can buy books and objects that remind your visit of Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio.

11. The exit



When you've finished your visit of the Complesso museale delle Anime del Purgatorio Quadreria, you can go out by the same place where you entered. If you left your backpack or your bag at the ticket office, you must remember to go there and get it.

If you enjoyed the visit, you can come back whenever you like.



Maps

The upper church

2 Giulio Mastrilli statue



1 Madonna delle Anime Purganti



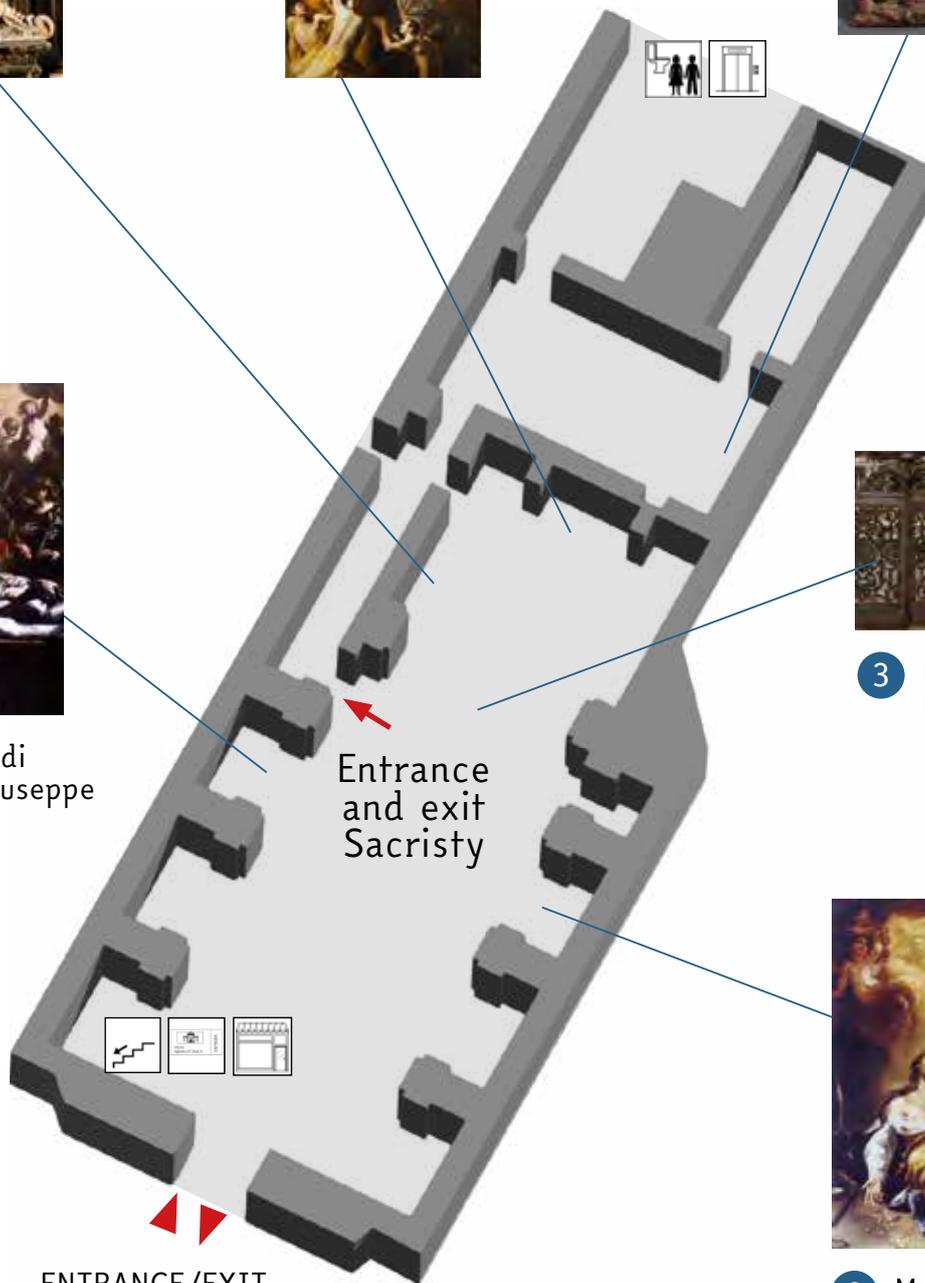
5 Opera Pia Museum



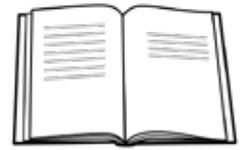
4 Morte di San Giuseppe



3 High altar balustrade



6 Morte di Sant' Alessio



Legenda

- 1 **Madonna delle Anime purganti**
- 2 **Giulio Mastrilli statue**
- 3 **High altar balustrade**
- 4 **Morte di San Giuseppe**
- 5 **Opera Pia Museum**
- 6 **Morte di Sant'Alessio**

Bathrooms on upper floors.

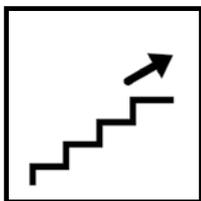
If you need help to find the bathrooms,
ask the persons with a badge.



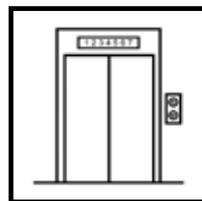
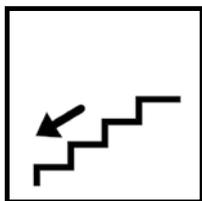
Ticket office



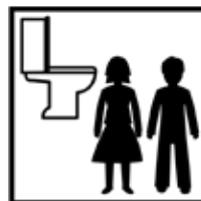
Church shop



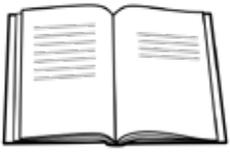
Stairs



Lift



Bathrooms

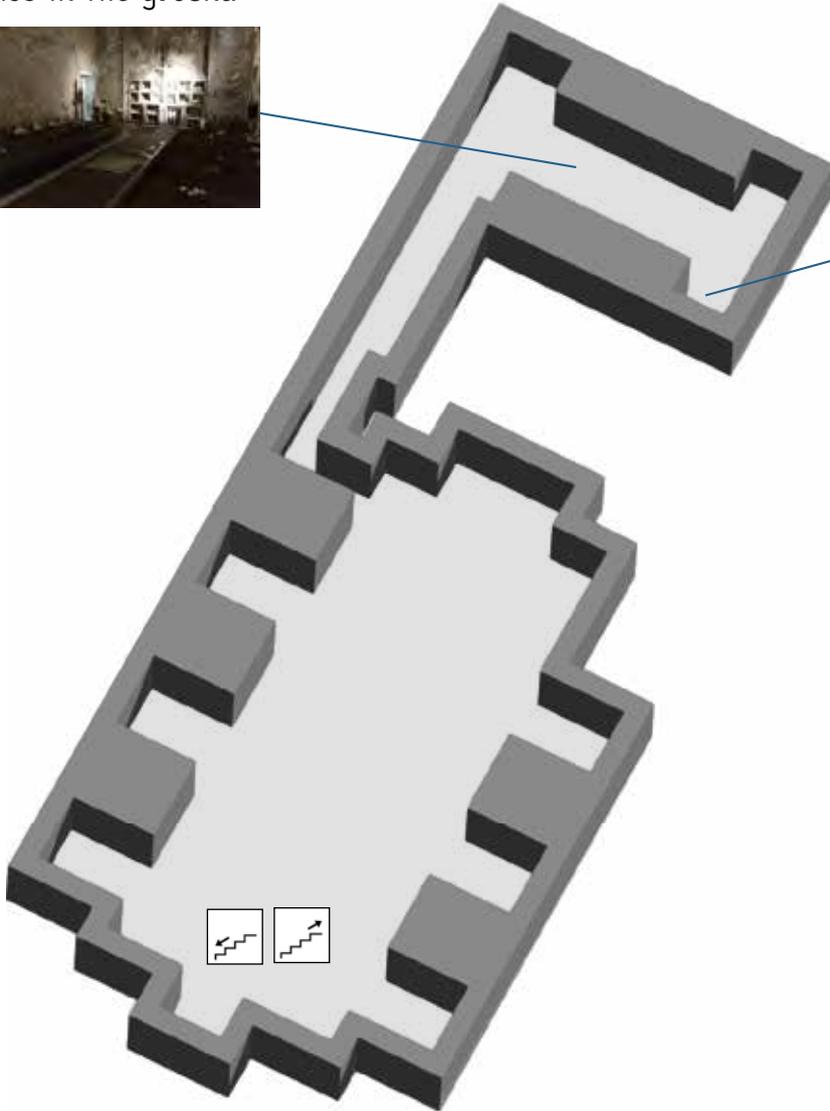


The lower church

Tombs in the ground



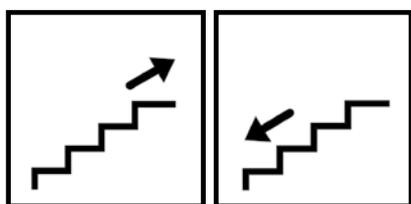
7 Altarino di Lucia





Legenda

- 7 Altarino di Lucia
Tombs in the ground



Stairs



The history of the church of Santa Maria delle Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco



The church of Santa Maria delle Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco



The church of Santa Maria delle Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco is a two-floor church:

- **the upper church on ground floor.**

Here is where priests say Mass and people pray.

Today you can see many pictures and a few statues here



- **the lower church on -1 floor.**

That church is called lower because it's under the upper church and it's underground.

Often underground churches are smaller than the other ones.

This lower church, on the contrary, is as big as the upper one.

For this reason, it's a very special one.





In the lower church people used to pray for the **souls** of Purgatory, priests used to say Mass and bury the dead as people do in cemeteries. Here the city poor people and the persons who didn't have a home nor a family anymore were buried as well.



Find out what is a soul on page 31

Today you can see many **skulls** here. A skull is the head of a person who died a long time ago.

Today in the upper church people pray and listen to Mass, but dead people are not buried here anymore.



What is a soul

Thoughts and emotions of a person are the **soul**.

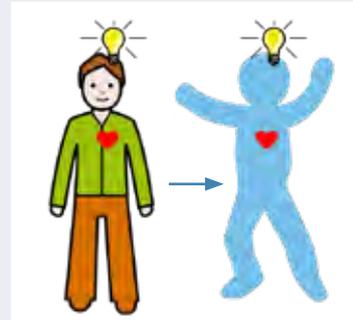
The soul is inside people.

You cannot see or touch the soul.

Some people think that when somebody dies the soul goes to some places.

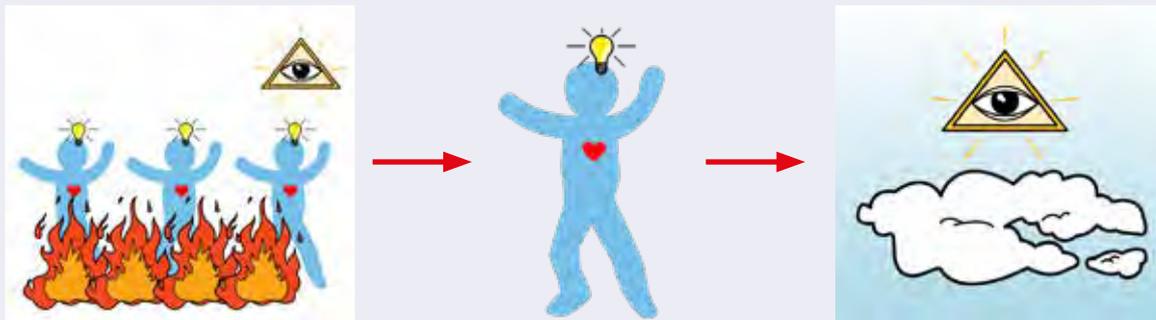
Those places are:

- **Paradise, where the souls of very good people go**
Here souls are happy.
- **Purgatory, where the souls of the people who hadn't been too bad nor too good go**
Here souls burn in the fire and are sad.
- **Hell, where the souls of very bad people go**
Here souls are very painful and very sad.





You cannot see those places.
Some people think those places exist,
some think they don't exist.



Some people think the souls in Purgatory
should stay there until they become good.

Living people pray so that the souls can become good souls.

The Purgatory souls that have become good souls
can go up to Paradise.



The history of the church of Santa Maria delle Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco



This church is called **Santa Maria delle Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco**.

Mary was Jesus' mother and helped Purgatory souls.

Mary was a saint.

A saint is a person who prays a lot and behaves always.

This church is called this way because here they pray a lot for the Purgatory souls and because there was a stone arch nearby a long time ago.

The stone arch is not there anymore.





Some **noble** persons built the church a long time ago together with other persons.

Noble persons are very rich and important persons.

Those noble persons had created an association called Opera Pia together with other persons.

An association is a group of persons who do things together.

The Opera Pia persons used to do good things for the others:

- they helped the poor
- they buried the dead.

At the beginning Opera Pia persons used to meet in some churches in Naples.

After some time, they decided to build a new church where they could meet.

To build the new church Opera Pia used the money donated by Pietro Antonio Mastrilli to the association.

Pietro Antonio Mastrilli was a person of the Opera Pia group and had given a lot of money, **4000 ducats**.

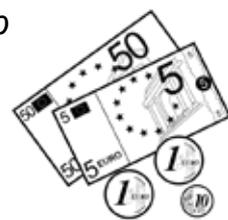
A ducat is a coin of a long time ago.

Opera Pia persons asked the architect Giovan Cola di Franco to design the new church.

An architect is a person who builds houses, palaces and churches.

After some time this architect died, and Opera Pia people called another architect.

Gian Giacomo di Conforto is the architect who completed the church of Santa Maria delle Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco.





The church of Santa Maria delle Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco was built on 2 floors:



- the upper church

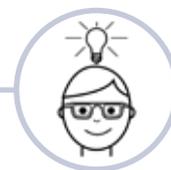


- the lower church.

This church is called lower because it's under the upper church.



After a short time Giulio Mastrilli donated more money to make the presbytery of the upper church even more beautiful. The presbytery is the part at the end of a church. When Giulio Mastrilli died, his son had his father's statue built in the presbytery.



You can read about the statue on page 51

Today Opera Pia association helps keep this church nice and takes care of restoring it.

To restore means to clean or fix damaged objects, rooms or palaces of a long time ago.

Opera Pia transformed the church into a museum because it wants let everybody know its history.

Many people can visit the church and see the artworks, and learn the history of Purgatory souls.



What is Purgatory souls

Inside the lower church people pray a lot for the Purgatory souls. They started praying for those souls a long time ago, when people used to believe that God could send the dead's souls to 3 different places:

- **Paradise, where the souls of very good people used to go.**
Here souls were happy



- **Purgatory, where the souls of the people who hadn't been too bad nor too good used to go.**
Here souls used to burn in the fire and were sad



- **Hell, where the souls of very bad people used to go.**
Here souls were very painful and very sad. Souls would remain in Purgatory until they became good and could go to Paradise.



Prayers of the living could help those souls go to Paradise earlier. Today some people still think that the living's prayers help those souls go to Paradise.



A long time ago people from Naples used to call Purgatory souls **pezzentelle**.

They called them like that because those souls used to ask living people for prayers to go to Paradise earlier.

In Naples living people were not afraid of the dead.

With their prayers, living people helped the dead's souls go to Paradise.

From Paradise the dead's souls helped the living people.

Many women used to pray to help those souls.

The women who prayed used to ask a **reward** to the souls they had helped.

A reward is a gift you give a person to thank for the help received.

People asked the souls help them get things they wished, like:

- recover from illness
- find a job
- find a husband or a wife
- have a beloved person come back from war
- have a baby.



Many people also used to give money to the church of Santa Maria delle Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco. With that money, priests used to say Mass and pray that the Purgatory souls could go to Paradise earlier. When there were many Masses and prayers, souls would stay in Purgatory for a short time.

In the lower church they used to bury also the poor and those who had remained alone in life. Those people were buried all together in the same tomb. **Women used to pray for those people's souls, choosing a skull to take care of.**

A skull is the head of a person who died a long time ago. Women used to do many things to take care of the skulls:

- they put them in a niche.

A niche is a hole made in the wall to put something important inside

- they used to polish them
- they put them on white napkins or cushions
- they put many candles, flowers or rosaries around it.

A rosary is a necklace with a cross.

You keep it in your hand while you're praying.





Women used to go to the lower church to pray and take care of the skulls **every Monday**.

In exchange for all those things, they always asked for a reward.



Find out why every Monday on page 41

When a woman dreamt of the soul she had chosen, it meant that taking care of that skull was the right thing to do.

Sometimes the soul

didn't give the woman the reward she had asked for.

In that case the woman would punish the skull

by choosing a different skull to help and to ask for a reward.



After a long time, Naples bishop decided that people could not take care of the lower church skulls anymore.

A bishop is a very important priest.

Nowadays people keep praying for the pezzentelle souls to help them and have a reward back.



Every Monday



A long time ago people in Naples used to believe that the most important day for Purgatory souls were Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Saturday

People thought that every **Saturday** the Madonna would go down to Purgatory to choose those souls that had become good. Madonna is Mary, Jesus' mother.

At Purgatory, the Madonna used to tell angels which souls could go to Paradise.

Sunday

Every **Sunday** priests used to say Mass and people prayed a lot. Prayers were used to give relief to the souls that were burning and suffered a lot in Purgatory.

Monday

On **Mondays**, Purgatory souls had become stronger and were ready to reward the persons that had helped them.

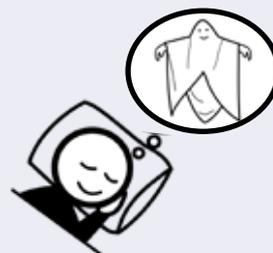
This is why every Monday women used to go back to the lower church, to pray Purgatory souls and ask for their reward.



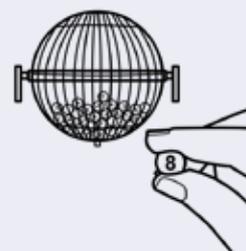
Pezzentelle souls and Lotto game



In Naples many people
used to ask pezzentelle souls
to show up in their dreams.



In dreams they asked pezzentelle souls
to tell them winning numbers for Lotto game.



In Lotto game you need to guess 5 numbers.

The 5 winning numbers

were picked out of a big box with **90** numbers.

Those who guessed all the 5 numbers would win a lot of money.

Those who guessed fewer numbers would win a little money.

People in Naples used to like this game

a lot and prayed pezzentelle souls to help them guess
the winning numbers.

Today some people still ask pezzentelle souls
to help them with the lucky numbers.

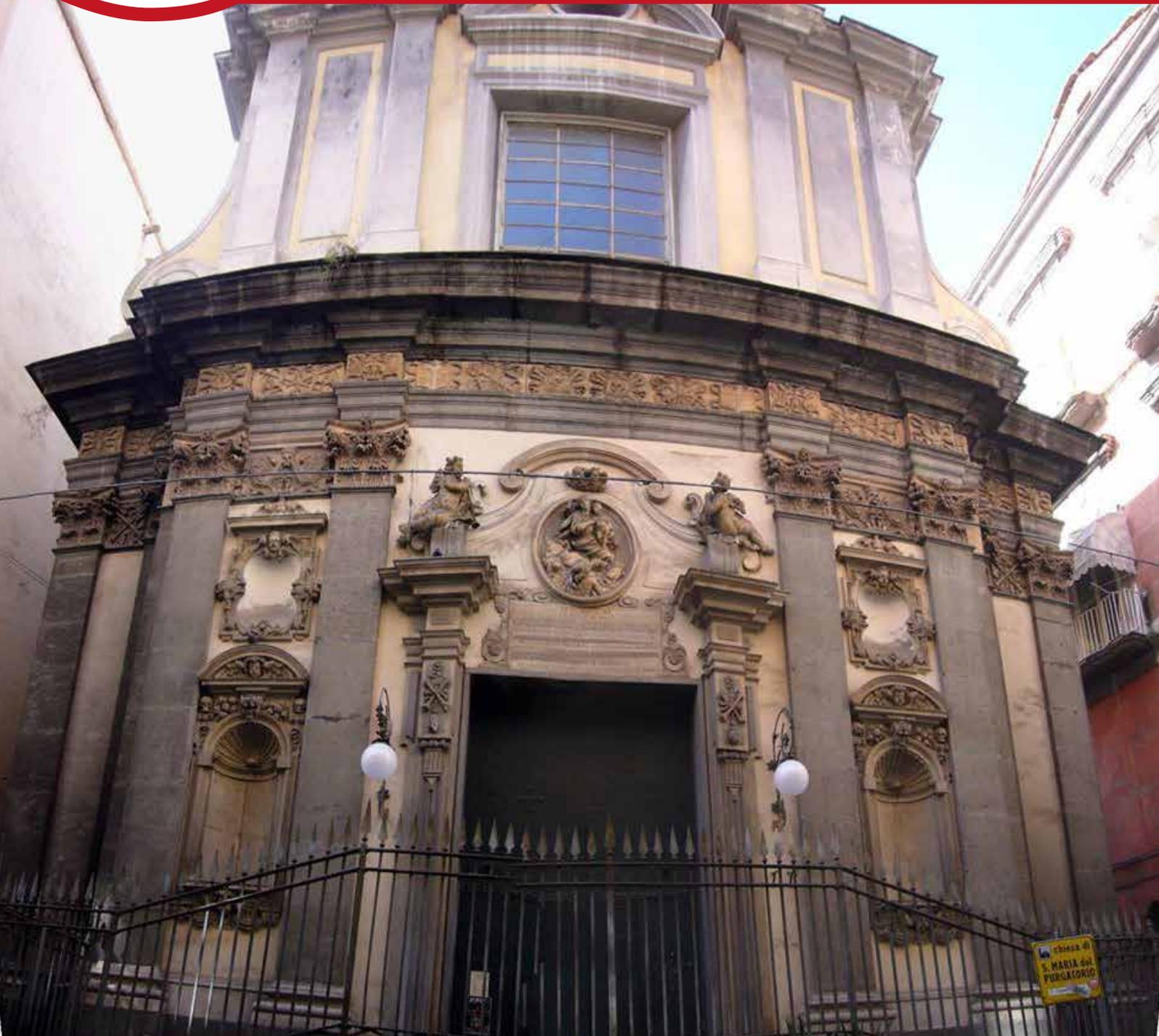


The artworks





The upper church



The upper church is the first one you see when you enter the Complesso museale of Santa Maria delle Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco.

A complesso museale is made of many museum areas one close to the other.



There are 2 staircases before the entrance of the upper church.



On both sides you can see skulls made of a metal called bronze. A skull is the head of a person who died a long time ago.



This church was built a long time ago. You can see many pictures and some statues inside. At the end of the church, you can see a big stone skull with wings hiding behind the high altar.





1. Madonna delle Anime purganti

Massimo Stanzione





This painting is called **Madonna delle Anime purganti**.
Massimo Stazio made this painting a long time ago.
It's called like this because it shows you the **Madonna**
with the souls in **Purgatory**.

Madonna is Mary, Jesus' mother.

When a some good some bad person dies,
the soul goes to **Purgatory**.

Purgatory is the place where souls stay until they become good.

When souls become good, they can go to Paradise.

The **Madonna** protects **Purgatory** souls
and every **Saturday** goes down to **Purgatory**
to save the souls that have became good.



In the upper part of the painting, you can see the Madonna painted in the sky on a cloud.

The Madonna has a red dress and a blue cloak.

The Madonna is holding Child Jesus and they look downwards at the Purgatory souls.

There are little angels and some light around her.

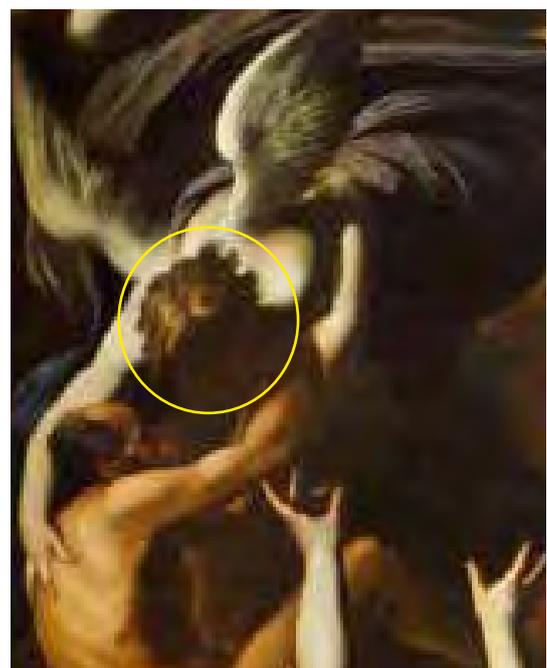
Massimo Stanzione painted a well-lit sky to let you know that the Madonna is a very important person.

In the painting, the Madonna is showing the 3 angels which are the souls that can go to Paradise.



In the painting you can see:

- on the right,
an angel is looking
at the Madonna
to understand which soul to take.
Under this angel you see the soul
of a man with arms up,
ready to be taken away.
- in the middle,
an angel is about to catch a soul.
This soul has arms up
to be taken away too.
- on the left,
an angel holds a man's soul.





**In the lower part of the painting,
you see other souls in the middle of Purgatory fire.**

They are scared, they pray and have arms up towards the angel,
hoping they can take them.

Those are the souls that haven't become good yet
and cannot go to Paradise.

Massimo Stanzione was a very famous painter from Naples.

Many of his paintings are exposed in museum and churches in Naples.

Massimo Stanzione was a very good teacher as well.

Many painters went to his school to learn how to paint.



2. Giulio Mastrilli Statue Andrea Falcone



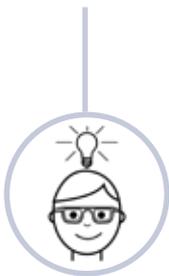
Across the upper church you can see the **Giulio Mastrilli** statue.
Giulio Mastrilli was an important and rich **duke**.
A duke is an important person who rules a town.
Giulio Mastrilli gave a lot of money to make the church nicer.



When Giulio Mastrilli died,
Andrea Falcone made his statue
using marble.

The statue shows you that Giulio Mastrilli
is very elegant.

He's on his knees on a cushion
and he's looking at the
Madonna delle Anime Purganti painting.



Find out all about the painting
on page 46

Giulio Mastrilli is asking the Madonna
to listen to his prayers for the Purgatory souls.
Madonna is Mary, Jesus' mother.

Over the statue
there are 2 little angels
holding the Mastrilli family
coat of arms.

A coat of arms is a drawing
used a long time ago to show
an important family.





Under the statue there is a **sarcophagus**.

A sarcophagus is a chest where they put the body of dead people.

This sarcophagus is empty,

because Giulio Mastrilli had been buried in the lower church.

On the base you can see a long-written text.

The text says that Giulio Mastrilli was a very good person and made many nice things in his life.



3. High altar balustrade

Dionisio Lazzari



Before the main altar you see a **balustrade**.

A balustrade is like a small low wall

that divides the **presbytery** from the **main aisle**.

The presbytery is the place with the altar used to say Mass.

The main aisle is the biggest part inside a church,
where people can sit on the benches and pray.

A long time ago Dionisio Lazzari made this balustrade
with a stone called marble.



To make this balustrade

Dionisio Lazzari

followed various steps:

- First, he cut many pieces of marble, in different shapes and colours. You can see white, red, yellow marble pieces.
- Then he put all the pieces together to make a big drawing. For example, in the balustrade you can see the drawing of many little columns with curls. On the balustrade top, many flowers are drawn on a black background.



In the balustrade you can also see:

- **a gate made of a metal called brass.**

The gate is there to avoid people enter where the altar is, where only priests can go





- **2 coats of arms of Mastrilli family.**

A coat of arms is a drawing used a long time ago to show an important family.

Mastrilli family was an important family in Naples and paid to have the balustrade made.

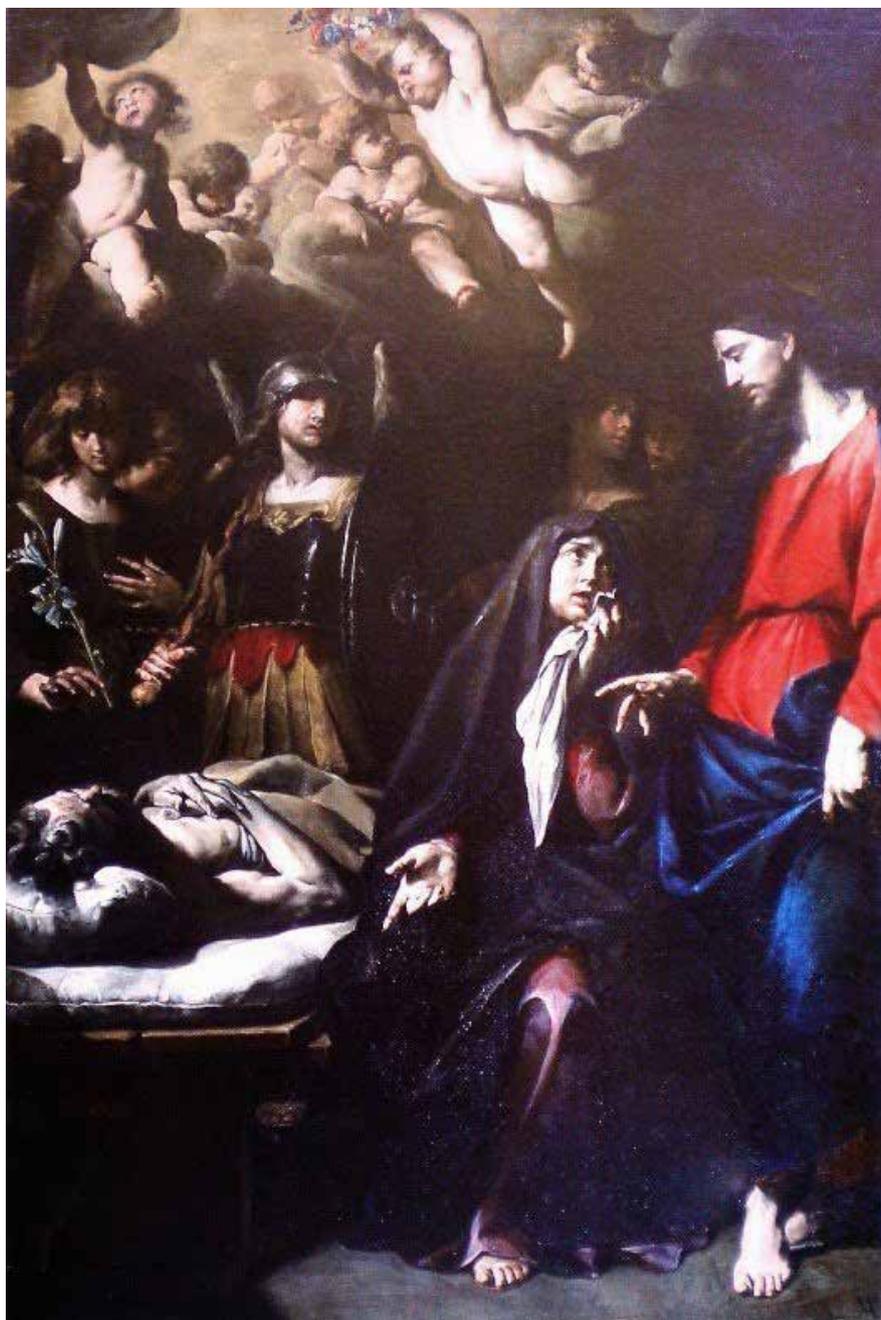
This is why you see their coats of arms.





4. Morte di San Giuseppe

Andrea Vaccaro



This painting is called **Morte di San Giuseppe**.

A saint is a person who prays a lot and behaves always.

Saint Joseph was Jesus' father.



In this painting you see Saint Joseph lying on a bed. He's dying.
Around Saint Joseph you can see the those who loved him:
his wife Mary and his son Jesus.

Andrea Vaccaro made this painting a long time ago.
Andrea Vaccaro was a very famous painter from Naples.
He painted many painting for the churches of his town.



In the painting Saint Joseph has white hair
because he was very old when he died.
Saint Joseph was over 100 when he died.
His body is skinny and white.
Andrea Vaccaro painted a white body to show
that Saint Joseph was dying.



On the right you see Mary sitting on a chair.
Mary has a veil on her head that covers her hair, and a long cloak.
Mary is crying and she's very sad because her husband is dying.

Mary is turning towards her son Jesus,
who's standing next to her.
Mary is pointing at Saint Joseph.
Jesus has a red dress and a long blue cloak.
Jesus is sad but he's not crying.
Jesus is peaceful because he knows that Saint Joseph's soul will go to Paradise after dying.





In the middle of the painting, you see 2 archangels.

An archangel is the angels' chief.

Those archangels are ready to go to Paradise with Saint Joseph's soul.

In the painting you also see:

- **archangel Gabriel**

with a lily in his hands.

A lily is the flower
of the persons with good souls.

Archangel Gabriel
is carrying a lily because
Saint Joseph's soul is good

- **archangel Michael**
wearing an armour.

An armour is a suit
made of iron that they used
to wear to protect themselves
during a war.

Andrea Vaccaro painted Michael with an armour
to tell you that he's the archangel who fights against the Devil.



People used to pray archangel Michael asking to die without pain and
having the beloved persons with them.

**Mary and Jesus too are asking archangel Michael to protect
Saint Joseph's soul.**



Saint Joseph had been a very good person.
After his death, his soul could go immediately to paradise.
This is why Jesus is peaceful.
He knows his father's soul won't have to go to Purgatory.



Above, there are many little angels in the clouds.
The little angel in the centre is lifting a flower crown.
This crown is for Saint Joseph's soul when goes to Paradise.



5. The Opera Pia Museum



This is the **Opera Pia Purgatorio ad Arco Museum**.

Opera Pia is an association.

An association is a group of persons who do things together.

In this museum you find many objects owned by Opera Pia Purgatorio ad Arco.

Those objects are of a long time ago and they are kept in wooden closets.

In those closets you can see:

- all the precious objects and garments used by priests during Mass
- paintings by many important painters
- little statues of the Purgatory souls that were in **votive shrines** before.

The votive shrines are little houses people built along the street.

They hosted statues and saints' portraits.

A saint is a person who prays a lot and behaves always.



Little statues of Purgatory souls

In the museum you can see many little statues of Purgatory souls, made a long time ago.

They were made in many ways and put inside **votive shrines**.

The votive shrines are little houses people used to build along the street.

They hosted statues and saints' portraits.

The shrines hosted 4 or 6 little statues one close to the others.

Those statues represent Purgatory souls with open and raised arms, asking for living people prayers.

Thanks to those prayers

Purgatory souls can reach Paradise earlier.

Opera Pia put those little statues in a museum to protect and show them to everyone.





6. Morte di Sant'Alessio

Luca Giordano



This painting is called **Morte di Sant'Alessio**.

A saint is a person who prays a lot and behaves always.

Luca Giordano made this painting a long time ago.



The painting shows you Saint Alexis sitting on the floor on a straw carpet.

Saint Alexis is looking upwards, he's got long hair and a beard.

Before becoming a saint, Alexis was a very rich man.

After some time, Alexis had decided to give all his money to the poor and live as a poor himself.

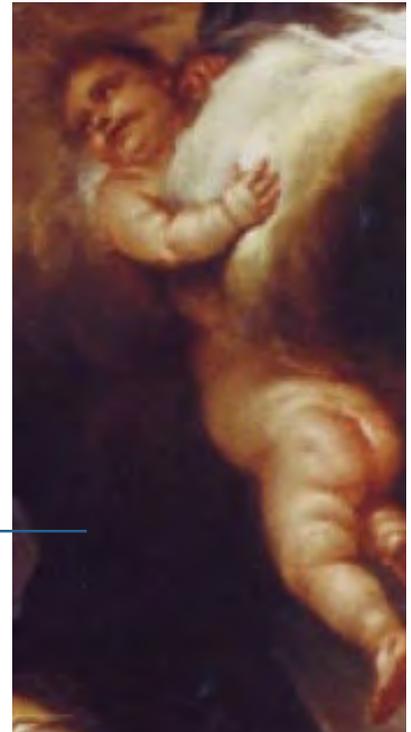
Alexis wanted to do good things as Jesus had done.

That's why Alexis has become the saint who protects **beggars**.

Beggars are poor persons who ask the other people for money and food.



Infact, in the painting you can see Saint Alexis with dirty and damaged clothes because he was living as a poor man.



When Saint Alexis died,
he was close to a staircase.

On the left you can see a bowl
and a pilgrim's staff.

A pilgrim is a person who makes long trips
to pray in faraway places.

Pilgrims used to carry a staff to lean on it
when they were tired.





There are many angels around Saint Alexis, looking at him.

Some of them are little angels, others are bigger and have large wings.

The angels are all in the middle of clouds in the sky.

The sky is lit up by a strong light because it represents Paradise.

The good people's souls go to Paradise after dying.

Saint Alexis had been good and his soul can go to Paradise.



Hurry-up Luca



Luca Giordano was a famous painter from Naples.
Luca Giordano worked in many towns and countries.
Luca Giordano used to paint paintings and frescoes.
A fresco is a painting made on a wall.

Luca Giordano was a very good painter and had a big **workshop**.
A painter's workshop was the place where he
and the persons who helped him used to paint.
At Luca Giordano's workshop many painters
used to paint many paintings working very quickly.
For that reason, everybody called him **Hurry-up Luca**.

The lower church



The lower church is under the upper church.
This is the church where they pray for the Purgatory souls.
You must go down the stairs to visit it.

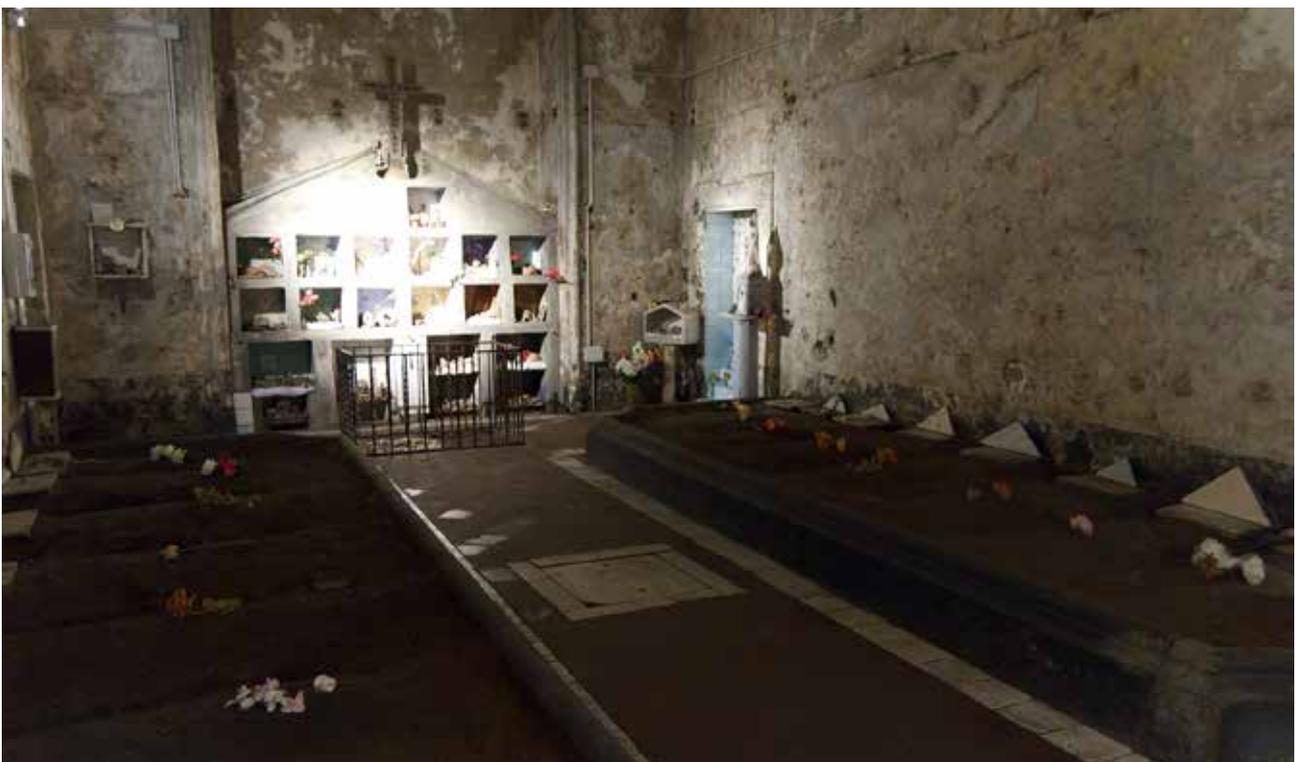
The lower church is as big as the upper church.
A long time ago the poor were buried here,
all together in the big tomb
in the middle of the church.
The poor were buried all together
because they didn't have the money to pay
for their own tomb.





On the left and right walls, you can see many **skulls**.
A skull is the head of a person who died a long time ago.
You must go left across the church
and go through the corridor to see
the rest of the church.

At the end of the corridor
there is another room with many skulls.
On the right and left sides,
you can see some tombs in the ground.
**Here is where the Opera Pia persons
were buried**





7. Altarino di Lucia



This is the **Altarino di Lucia**.

L'Altarino is a **niche** with a bench in front of it.

A niche is a hole made in the wall to put something important inside.



Inside the niche there is Lucia's skull.

L'Altarino looks like Lucia's home.

Lucia has a white veil like a bride's veil.

This is why people call her **The Bride**.

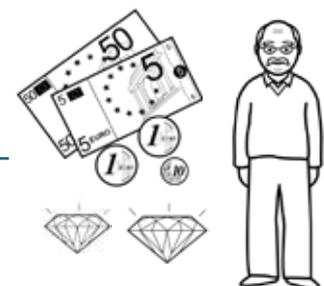
Lucia also wears a crown.



A story tells that Lucia was a prince's daughter.

The prince was called Don Domenico d'Amore.

Don Domenico wanted Lucia to get married to a rich man who was much older than she was.





Lucia however was in love with a young and handsome boy.

Lucia died from pain because he couldn't get married to the boy she loved.



Don Domenico buried Lucia in the lower church. After a long time, Lucia's story became famous, and some people put her skull in the niche. Many girls in love started praying Lucia asking for help.



Over Lucia's niche there's another niche with the skulls of 2 persons, Antonio and Teresa.

Antonio and Teresa were Lucia's servants and loved her a lot.

A servant is a person who works for another person, cooking, cleaning the house and washing clothes.

Teresa has a white veil on her head because was supposed to go to church with Lucia on her wedding day.



Many people love Lucia and have made her Altarino more and more beautiful.

Around the niche they put blue tiles.

On top, over the niche,

there is Lucia's name written

to let everybody know this is Lucia's Altarino.

On the bench there are lots of objects:

- **many silver ex-voto.**

People used to make ex-voto to thank God and the saints for recovering from an illness or after a serious accident.

The ex-voto is made in the shape of the body's part that recovered. For example, you can see ex-voto shaped like a leg.



- **pink and blue ribbons.**

These are the ribbons that people hang out of the door to celebrate a little girl or boy's birth.



- **coins and precious jewels like rings, necklaces and bracelets**





- **rosaries.**

A rosary is a necklace with a cross.

You keep it in your hand while you're praying.



- **paper flowers and notes.**

On the notes people write prayers to Lucia asking for her help and they thank her for what she did.



- **little statues of saints,**

like the one of Sant'Antonio with Child Jesus.

A saint is a person who prays a lot and behaves always.



- **pictures of dead people.**



All these objects are gifts for Lucia.

The persons she helped brought them to thank her.

Today many people come to pray Lucia

and ask for help in finding a boyfriend or a job.

Some people ask for help in having a baby

or something they really want.

When you see this symbol



it means that in that place
you find people who can help you.
They can help you understand artworks,
paintings, statues, houses, castles.

Museo per tutti project was created
by the non-profit association L'abilità
together with De Agostini Foundation.

The association L'abilità is made by
a group of people who take care of
persons with disabilities.

The association L'abilità wants everybody
to understand artworks.
De Agostini Foundation supports
this project.

The Complesso museale Santa Maria
delle Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco
wants everybody to enter and see
the church and the artworks.

MUSEO PER TUTTI
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info
www.museopertutti.org
museopertutti@labilita.org