



## CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF GRACES IN TOLDINO

This point of interest is found in Cernobbio - [Path 2](#) - Stage 3

### INFORMATION

**Location:** the Church currently looks upon via della Libertà, the carriage road built between 1915 and 1917 to link the centre of Cernobbio with the hamlet of Rovenna. However, before the carriage road was built, one would have seen it standing beside the old track, via Monte Santo, in the hamlet of Toldino.

**Paving:** asphalt (via della Libertà)

**Architectural barriers:** access to the church is by a step, approx. 8 cm high, having the same gradient as the road, and covered by a flower pot when the church is closed.

**Access:** the façade has a stained glass door protected by a grating which opens in half. Two small steps lead to another entrance on the side of the church, giving access to an enclosed concrete yard, also accessible from the roadway by an 8 cm step. The church is normally closed, and is only open for religious functions.

**Services:** a handful of parking spaces are located in the immediate surroundings; there is a bus stop for the C28 Rovenna – Como on the side of the church (Como direction), and one on the other side of the road (for Rovenna).

**Leisure and food:** a restaurant is located in front of the church.

### DESCRIPTION

(*Silvia Fasana*)

The small church of Our Lady of Graces (*B.V. delle Grazie*) in Toldino has a simple gabled façade, approx. 6 metres long and 5 metres high, with a stained glass door protected by a grating and two upper round arched windows. The Church is embellished by two pilaster strips and by the colour contrasts of the tympanum, beige over pale ochre. The side that was added later is visible on the left, in a slight recess; on the rear, stands the small belfry.

The first mention of the small church of Our Lady of Graces in Toldino can be found in the description of a pastoral visit by Mons. Giovanni Francesco Bonomi, bishop of Vercelli, in 1578. The «*country chapel*», as it is called in the document, was in a very bad condition, and such was its decline that, by the end of the century, even celebration of Holy Mass was prohibited. It is believed that Como nobleman Giovanni Ambrogio Carcano saw to the reconstruction of the sacred building in the early 17th century. We may infer this from his will, drawn up in 1617, where the small Church which he reconstructed was granted a bequest to be used for the celebration of a Mass on Our Lady's birthday and another on the octave. According to popular tradition, on 19 July 1691 a violent storm hit the territory of Rovenna and the villagers turned to Our Lady of Toldino, obtaining grace.

At first, the church was probably formed only of the right nave, while the sacristy on the left hand-side was added at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The building was completely restored in 1984.

(information drawn from *Communitas*, magazine published by the Comunità Pastorale Beata Vergine del Bisbino, summer 2012)