



CHAPEL OF THE OSSUARY

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

INFORMATION

Location: at the north-west end of St. Michael's churchyard in Rovenna, at an angle with via Umberto I.

Paving: via Umberto I is paved with stone cobbles near the chapel, while the churchyard is paved with concrete flags.

Architectural barriers: to access the churchyard from via Umberto I one must cross a small 5cm threshold.

Access: one can see the inside of the chapel from the arched opening, which is protected by a grating.

Services: there are parking places in the area, and an automated teller machine in via IV Novembre.

Leisure and food: there is a bar in the area.

DESCRIPTION

(Silvia Fasana)

The **Chapel of the ossuary** is a small eighteenth century building at the northwest edge of the parish churchyard which catches the eye because of its dazzling white colour; it is built to a roughly square plan, and is closed by a cylindrical blind window surmounted by a conical local stone slab roof culminating in an iron cross. On the right (when looking at the façade), alongside Via Umberto I, there is a blind arch, resulting from the closure of a previous opening (a small 8 inch threshold and part of the two granite shoulders with the attachment for what once was a balustrade remain), bearing the inscription "*What you are I once was. What I am, you will become*", an invitation to reflect on the transience of things. In front of the chapel, an arched opening protected by a grate allows you to see the simple altar on the inside, surmounted by an urn with the relics of St. Candidus, deposited here in the second half of the last century, along with the remains of other exhumations. Among these "*lie, since 1797, the bones of a "person very worthy for her charity towards the people", for a long time considered miraculous*", as reported by Vittorio Fossati and Irene Daviddi in the book *Cernobbio "picciola terra"* (*The small land of Cernobbio*). A scroll found during the restoration of 2011, and mentioned by Benvenuto Barelli in a brochure prepared for the occasion, led to the discovery that on 19 March 1800, at the behest of his grandchildren, the remains of Abbondio Gelodi, who died on 5 January 1797, and buried in the tomb of the Fathers of the Order of Minims in the church of S. Maria del Gerbo in Como, church of the former Augustinian convent of the Ascension (now church of the Holy Trinity in the Pastoral Center "Cardinal Ferrari" of Como), were placed in the ossuary of Rovenna.

A small 8 cm threshold at the base of the wall below the arched opening allows one to kneel in prayer.

In 1915, in compliance with the new mortuary regulation which provided for the transfer of ossuaries inside cemeteries, in places not exposed to view, the then Municipal Administration tried to enforce such transfer, but a wide public protest, with the collection of signatures, convinced the Administration otherwise, who, following the advice of the Prefect, merely restored the ancient ossuary.

The ossuary has been carefully restored in 2011 at the behest of Ercolina Riva Binda, born in Rovenna, on the occasion of her hundredth birthday.