



## PONTE “VECCHIO” (THE “OLD” BRIDGE)

You can find this point of interest in Menaggio - Path 1 - Stage 3

### INFORMATION

**Location:** the “Old” bridge connects the two shores of the Sanagra stream, right below the gorge north of the Castle.

**Paving:** cobbles.

**Architectural barriers:** none. At the entrance of the bridge, where asphalt turns to cobbles, please mind a grate for the drainage of water, next to a bump, which are perpendicular to the road. The bridge has a stone parapet on both sides, flanked by an iron railing, reaching a total height of 1.5 metres.

**Access:** entrance is from via per Loveno.

**Services:** -

**Leisure and food:** -

### DESCRIPTION

(*Silvia Fasana*)

The bridge is nowadays known as the bridge “of Our Lady of Caravaggio” (after the nearby oratory); on a municipal map of the beginning of the past century the road leading to it was shown as “Via Ponte Vecchio”, possibly to indicate that it was the oldest bridge in Menaggio over the Sanagra stream. The stone construction dates back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century and probably is the «*bridge of Chollio*» mentioned in the *Medieval Statutes* (1335), which describe the Regina Road maintenance sections. From here, looking to the left, it is possible to observe how the stream carved its bed into the rock, forming a deep gorge that must have acted as a fundamental protection for the north side of the Castle. On the left of the gorge, an old water intake structure, created to feed a mill below, is still visible. Looking to your right, you will see a building owned by Venini Costruzioni Metalliche, a company which, since the first half of the past century, continues the Menaggio ironworking tradition, where you may notice some water outlet structures and a lock. When crossing the cobbled bridge: about two thirds of the way, after 10 metres, you come to an aedicule on the left parapet decorated with a chipboard panel carrying a high relief by Enrico Vannuccini (1965), depicting *Saint John Nepomucene*, invoked to protect from the danger of drowning, which replaces a previous heavily damaged fresco. At the end of the bridge, on the right, stands the oratory (preceded by two steps, one to reach the landing, the other to enter), which Carlo Danieli and Rina Perego had had built in 1923 after having received a grace from Our Lady of Caravaggio. The square apse, which takes up almost half of the entire oratory area, hosts two dressed statues of *Our Lady and the shepherd girl* to whom she appeared, with a fresco on the background made by painter Roveda from Plesio. The lunette above the door carries a painting of an angel carrying a scroll with «*Hail Mary*» written on it.