



The numbering of the church refers to the **General map of the romanesque network of the hills (RRC)**

### How to get to and visit St. Lawrence's Church

Strada Comunale di Sant'Anna, Mombello di Torino (TO).  
 GPS Coordinates: Lat. 45.05885755 | Long. 7.91195868

Open the first Sunday of each month in the period from April to October, supervised by **RRC** volunteers. On request on other days.

Information: +39 3349716377 +39 0119925188  
[www.comune.mombelloditorino.to.it](http://www.comune.mombelloditorino.to.it)

### Local attractions in and around Mombello di Torino:

- St. Mary's Church, Marentino (**RRC**);
- Church of Sant Eusebio, Castelnuovo Don Bosco (**RRC**);
- Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Avuglione;
- St. George's Church, Moncucco Torinese;
- Church of St. Mary of Cornareto, Castelnuovo Don Bosco;
- Castle and Museum of Plaster, Moncucco Torinese;
- Arignano Lake.

### Local events and shows:

- Festival of St. Anna, 26 July, Mombello di Torino (TO);
- Festival of St. Lawrence, 10 August, Mombello di Torino (TO);
- Honey Fair, last Sunday in September, Marentino (TO);
- Festival of the Thistle and Bagna Càuda (Piedmontese gastronomic speciality), October, Andezeno (TO).



**Information points and contacts:**  
 Albugnano (AT), Abbey of Vezzolano

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[www.vezzolano.it](http://www.vezzolano.it)

Facebook: turismo InCollina



**Romanesque network of the hills** promotes knowledge and use of the romanesque heritage of the local areas between the River Po and the Monferrato Hills.

With the collaboration of:



With the support of:

Municipalities and Parishes of Albugnano, Andezeno, Brusasco, Castelnuovo Don Bosco, Cavagnolo, Cerreto, Cortazzone, Marentino, Mombello di Torino, Montafia, Montiglio Monferrato, Tonengo.



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 Translation: Wall Street English, Chieri (TO)  
 With the collaboration of Circolo Animamondo (Mombello di Torino)

# St. Lawrence's Church

Mombello di Torino

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Abbeys and churches between the River Po and Monferrato

### Description of the local area

This small church stands alone on the top of a hill (364 m.a.s.l.) near Mombello di Torino, to the north of the village. It stands beside the unpaved road connecting Mombello with Barbaso, a small hamlet of Moncucco Torinese, and which runs right along the crest of the hill, giving wonderful views.

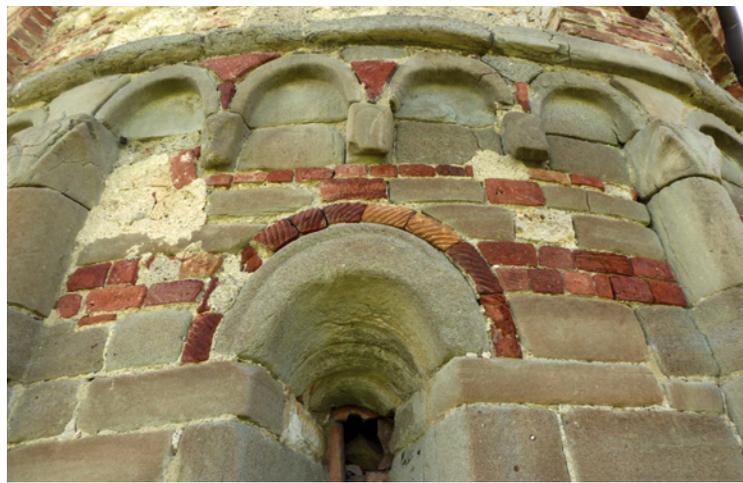
On clear days the view opens out to take in the whole range of the chain of the Western Alps.



### Historical details

A document from 1331 mentions the church of St. Lawrence of Agnano for the first time, together with that of St. Vitalis of Balbiano (Arignano) and St. Nicholas of Cesole (Andezeno): three churches united under the canonical prebend of Oddone Zucca, from Turin Cathedral. In 1386, the "ecclesia sancti Laurentii de Agnano" was listed among the churches subject to the pieve (or parish church) of St. George of Vergnano (Moncucco Torinese). A document from 1412, which established the boundary between Mombello and Moncucco, referred to a large stone placed below the church (perhaps the one on which the protruding buttress on the north-east side rests) and to the surrounding cemetery. The populated area of "Agnanum" (or Ognanum) around St. Lawrence's, known about since 1146, must have used the surrounding land as a cemetery, judging by the frequent finds of human bones in the vicinity of the building. For reasons that are unknown, "Agnanum" was in decline as early as the XIVth century, since St. Lawrence was already defined as a rural church by 1331. Around the mid-1300s, people "from Agnano" were mentioned in Barbaso, which was documented for the first time in 1338, and in Moncucco.

After 1386, St. Lawrence, which had by then become a rural church, passed under the jurisdiction of the abbey of St. Mary of Pinerolo and was mentioned, more or less in passing in 1591, during the pastoral visits to the parish of Mombello delle Frasche by the abbot from Pinerolo, Ruggero Tritonio and, later on, in 1647, by the abbey vicar, father Carlo di San Lorenzo. In 1748, all the churches in Mombello, including St. Lawrence therefore, passed to the archdiocese of Turin.



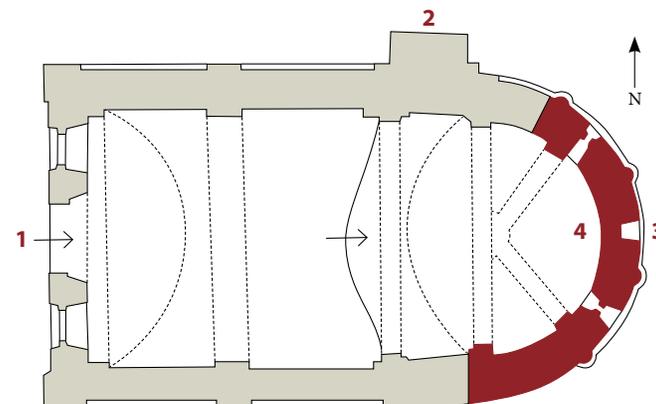
### Description

The building consists of a rectangular hall, about 5 m long and 4.15 m wide, with a semi-circular apse. The entrance, from the west facing façade, is in line with the hall; there is a gabled roof with wooden timbers and covering in terracotta tiles. Its present appearance, after the latest protective restoration completed in 2016, is the result of a series of refurbishments carried out over the centuries. However, there are still significant elements of the original Romanesque style in the apse.

**1.** The **façade**, which is plastered, is marked out by two pilasters, which join a cornice in stuccoed masonry. An upper gable, the result of consolidation work in the XVIIIth century, defines and supports the roof gables. To the sides of the **central doorway**, there are two square windows; there is a third square window high up above the doorway.

The two side walls give evidence of a sequence of several interventions; both are separated into two spans by a brick pilaster, running into a flat cornice.

**2.** On the **north side** there is a buttress jutting out a long way, resting on a stone block of considerable dimensions. Exposed brick cladding characterises the masonry of the walls and is interrupted



by the inclusion of stone material, consisting of sandstone blocks and fragments, probably recycled.

**3.** The **apse** represents the most important and the most authentic part of the building. It features alternating blocks of dressed stone and rows of bricks. It is separated into five spans by four semi-columns, with truncated-cone capitals and standing on eroded sandstone plinths. The three central spans have double splayed single openings and rounded arches, each made from a single block of sandstone. Each span is crowned by four hanging arches made from stone. In the part above the crown, the wall is divided by four pilasters of bricks, which finish in the cornice. The apse wall is completed by a strange pinnacled wall in exposed bricks, probably dating from the 1700s.

The **interior** is completely plastered and marked off by pairs of pilasters, roofed over by a barrel vault over the hall and presbytery and by a semi-dome over the apse. The floors are in square terracotta tiles. The **altar**, which thieves stripped of a 1700s canvas representing the martyrdom of St. Lawrence, is made of plastered masonry, imitation marble, and is in need of restoration.



**4.** In the **wall of the apse**, set in a curved brick structure jutting out behind the altar, there is a framed fresco wall, showing the Virgin and Child and St. Anthony. This fresco, which can be dated to the XVIIth century and is of excellent quality, can probably be attributed to the presence of two hermits on the site around 1650, as shown in documents in the archives of the parish of St. John the Baptist of Mombello di Torino.

### Interesting fact

St. Lawrence's church, even in the years when it was in a dire state of neglect, has always been used by the locals on 10 August, the saint's day of remembrance, as a meeting place for a simple country festival and a religious ceremony. If the sky is clear, people sometimes stay on until nightfall, in the hope of experiencing the phenomenon of the falling stars.