

Information

Sant Martí Parrish church

Church opening hours:
Monday to Friday: 8:00 to 10:00 and 18:30 to 20:00
Saturdays: 8:00 to 10:00 and 18:30 to 21:00
Sundays: 8:00 to 13:00 and 19:30 to 21:00

Telephone: 93 867 03 42

Sant Celoni tourist office

C/ Major, 53
Tel.: 93 867 01 71
turisme@santceloni.cat
www.santceloni.cat/turisme



Parroquia de Sant Martí
de Sant Celoni

Compromiso
«Calidad Turística»

Compromis
«Qualitat Turística»

2014 - Design and publication: Ajuntament de Sant Celoni - Photo: J.M. Cortina - J.M. Abril - J. Puigtió - Text: Josep M. Abril

The altar and the sides

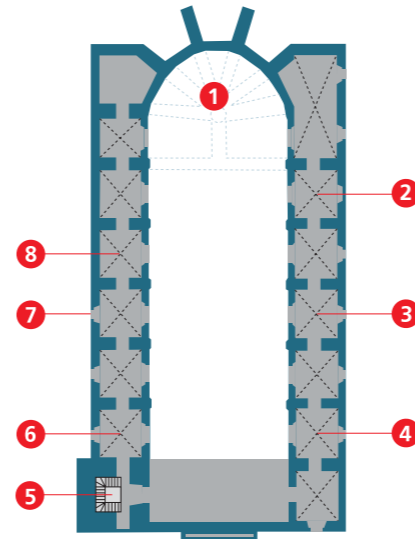
Above the altar is a baldachin dome, the work of the architect Francesc Folguera (1953), and a marble sculpture of Saint Martin by Lluís Montané (1953). Paintings by Isidre Roig de Casas (1960) depict various scenes from the saint's life.

The most noteworthy of the chapels on the left is the second chapel, devoted to **Mare de Déu del Puig, the town's patron**. It was blessed in 1944. The effigy, by Josep M. Camps Arnau and the paintings in the small chamber, by Darius Vilàs, date back to 1947. The altarpiece in the fifth chapel is of Mare de Déu del Pilar, with effigies sculpted by Lluís Montané in 1955 (Sant Francesc de Paula, la Verge del Pilar and Sant Ramon Nonat). The first chapel in the right aisle features a sculpture of the Immaculate conception by Francesc Carulla (1955). The paintings (Santa Maria Goretti and Sant Lluís Gonçaga) were painted by his son, who has the same name, in 1958. In the third chapel there is a modern wooden effigy of Mare de Déu del Roser and the fifth chapel, where the Moreneta is worshipped, houses paintings by Sandro Bedini (1999 and 2002).



The vestry or chapel of Sant Francesc Xavier

Completed in 1683, the chapel of Sant Francesc Xavier was provisionally used for mass until the church was completed. Later on it became the vestry and lately it is once again being used for church services. It is rectangular and has four sections of lunette vaults. It also houses two ceramic baroque altar fronts from the church of Sant Llorenç de Vilardell.



- 1 – The main altar
- 2 – Chapel of the Immaculate Virgin
- 3 – Chapel of Mare de Déu del Roser
- 4 – Chapel of Mare de Déu de Montserrat
- 5 – The belfry stairs and the choir
- 6 – Chapel of Mare de Déu del Pilar
- 7 – Cemetery gate
- 8 – Chapel of Mare de Déu del Puig



Main altar paintings



Parish church of Sant Martí de Sant Celoni

The splendour of Baroque



The parish church of Sant Martí de Sant Celoni is a good example of Catalan Baroque architecture and its facade, built in 1762, constitutes the best sgraffito decoration from that period to be found throughout the country. This building is the insignia of Sant Celoni's architectural heritage

Since medieval times Sant Celoni has continued to grow along the Carrer Major. The town had expanded a lot and its officials decided to build a new parish church right in the centre of the town because the old parish church, Sant Martí de Pertegàs (in the park of the Old Rectory) had become too small and was too out of the way. The first stone of the new temple was laid in 1634 and the works were recommenced in 1680 following a long interim due to the Reapers' War and other events. Sant Francesc Xavier chapel, which was later to become the vestry, was sanctified in 1683, and the new church was inaugurated in 1703. According to the inscriptions on the facade, the entrance was built in 1753 and the sgraffito was finished in 1762



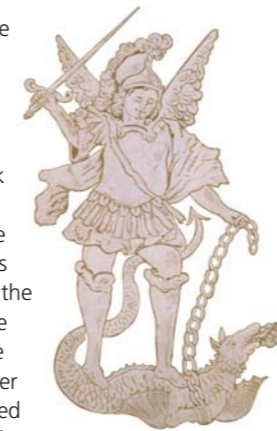
The doorway

The doorway was sculpted with Gualba marble. Above the segmental arch doorway is a medallion with the inscription "Anno Domini 1753" and a vaulted niche decorated with garlands of plants and floral motifs. The sculpture of Saint Martin executed in 1953, is the work of the local sculptor, Lluís Montané, and fits in perfectly with the facade's general baroque style. There is a rose window above. The top of the church facade is curved forming a sinuous profile that is typical of baroque architecture.

The sgraffito façade

The church facade's magnificent Baroque sgraffito decoration, completed in 1762 is the most important in Catalan baroque both because of the large surface it covers and the general good state of conservation of the original work as well as because of its pedagogical value. It transcends the purely decorative purpose of Baroque sgraffiti and depicts a coherent series of icons displayed on the sculptured facade in the form of a large altarpiece. The lower sections show the virtues one must practice on earth in order to attain heavenly glory, which is depicted on the upper two levels. Two archangels protect the entrance, one of which is the figure of Saint Michael over the dragon. On the sides of the archangels are an allegory of Justice holding the sword and scales for weighing up good deeds, and one of Charity depicted as a woman giving a maternal embrace to two children.

On the **first level**, seated on the ledges above the doorway, is Faith (with her eyes closed, with a chalice and a cross), and Hope holding an anchor. They are accompanied by two angels holding papal symbols (the keys to Saint Peter's and the tiara) which symbolise the church. **Heaven** is depicted as a large palace with constant music and rejoicing by an orchestra of angels behind the balustrade. These playful characters play instruments of the period and give a welcome to celestial glory. To one sides we have Sant Celdoni and to the other his brother Sant Ermenter, two Roman soldiers who became martyrs. Then there is a group of little angels: some of them are sleepy, others are loaded with baskets of fruits, a pair of them are playing with birds... Right at the top is an angel with the trumpet of the Final Judgement flanked by **two little angels holding the symbols of Saint Martin, the patron saint of the parish church**, the bishop's staff and mitre. The date of the sgraffiti is written on the sides: 1762.



The facade was restored in 1965 and again in 2003 commemorating the 3rd centenary of the church's consecration. Sgraffito is a relatively inexpensive decorative technique used in Catalan Baroque that consists of applying two layers of stucco. The bottom layer is darker and more plaster is added to the finer upper layer to obtain a lighter contrasting colour. The drawings are traced out on this top layer and then parts of the stucco are removed to give shape to the figures. Sgraffito is an economical wall decor technique that was quite widely used in the Catalan Baroque. It consists of applying two layers of plaster. The darker lower layer is covered by a thinner upper layer with more asbestos wich makes it lighter and creates a contrast. A drawing is then scratched out on this second layer and creates a relief.

The doorway to the cemetery and belfry

The doorway to the old ossuary or cemetery is on the east facade. It is rectangular and made of granite. The date of construction (1682) is above the niche along with an inlaid relief depicting the cross on a bell, between the sun and the moon. The belfry has three flights of stairs and is square shaped. The two upper levels are chamfered and on the last level there are four pointed arch openings. It is crowned by an extruded brick banister.

The interior

The church is a rectangular building with an octagonal apse and buttresses on the outside. The interior, which was renovated in 1940, has only one nave divided into six sections covered by lunette vaults. The nave is 19 metres high, 12 metres wide and 41 metres long. There are five chapels on each side between the side buttresses. Originally the difference in height between the ceiling of the nave and that of the chapels let light into the church directly through large windows which were covered up in the XIX century when the height of the side roofs was raised. There used to be galleries with wooden latticework above the chapels, which were removed during the renovation work in 1940.

The stained glass rose window, depicting Saint Martin ripping his cape in two, is from 1960. The same theme is depicted on the keystone, sculpted by Lluís Montané in 1940.

