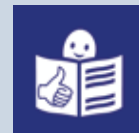




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The Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia

**Basilica
di Aquileia**

MUSEO PER TUTTI
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This is the Museo per tutti guide for the **Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia**. On page 4 you can find the **table of contents** of this guide. You can use that table of contents to understand which pages can be useful to organize your visit.

The information you need to organize your visit are inside the **social narrative**.

Before going to the Basilica, choose what you want to see during your visit and read the descriptions.

It's very important that you read the descriptions before your visit so that, when you are at the Basilica, you are not worried about being in a new place.

If you have downloaded this guide at the Museum, you can read the descriptions about:

- the rules to stay at the Basilica
- the history of the Basilica
- the objects and the halls of the Basilica.

After your visit, you can use the Museo per tutti guide to see again and remind the things of you discovered and the ones you liked best.

If you enjoyed your visit, you can come back whenever you like to look at new things or to see again the ones you liked best.



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- what to see
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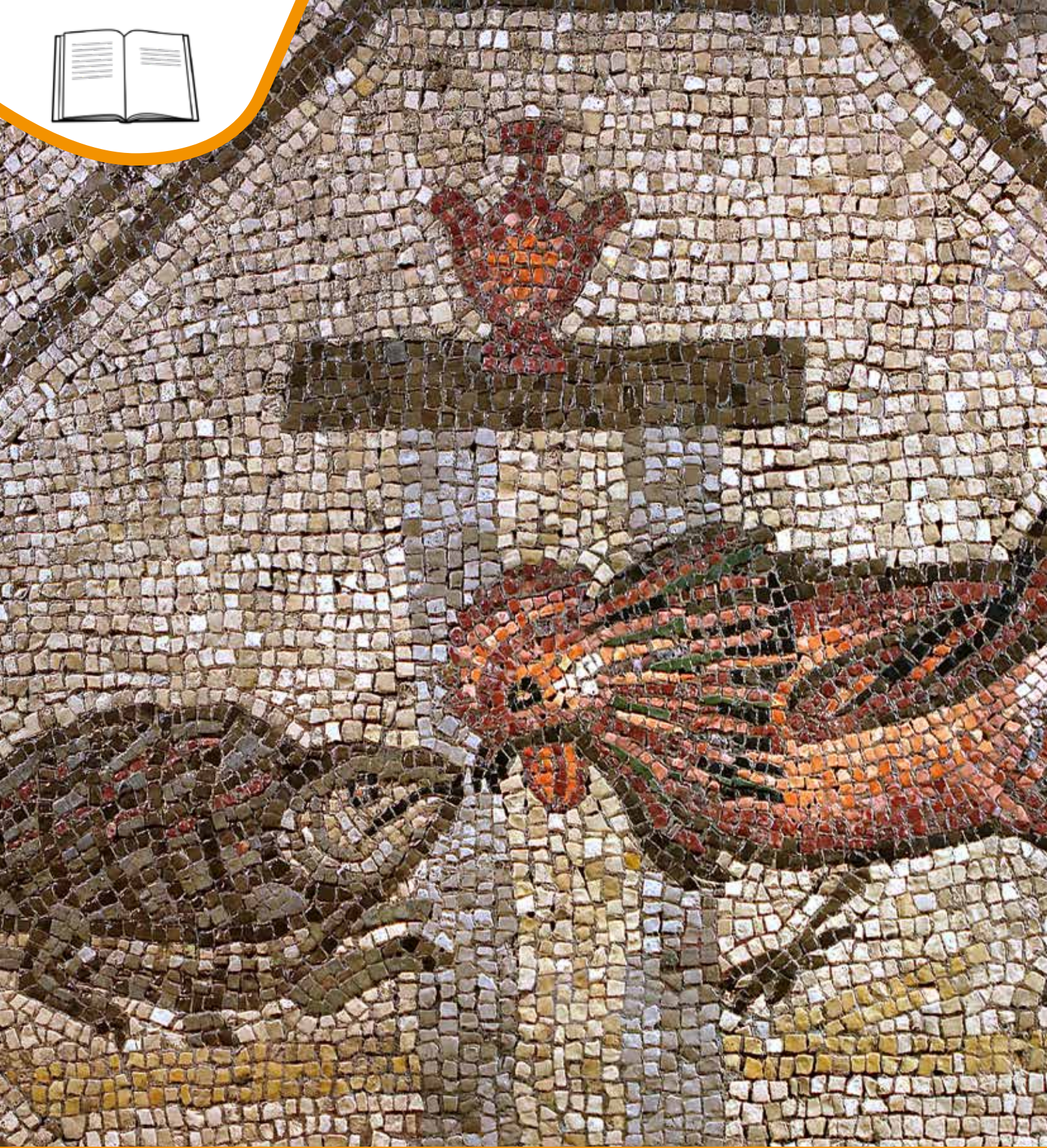
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The social narrative for visiting
the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia



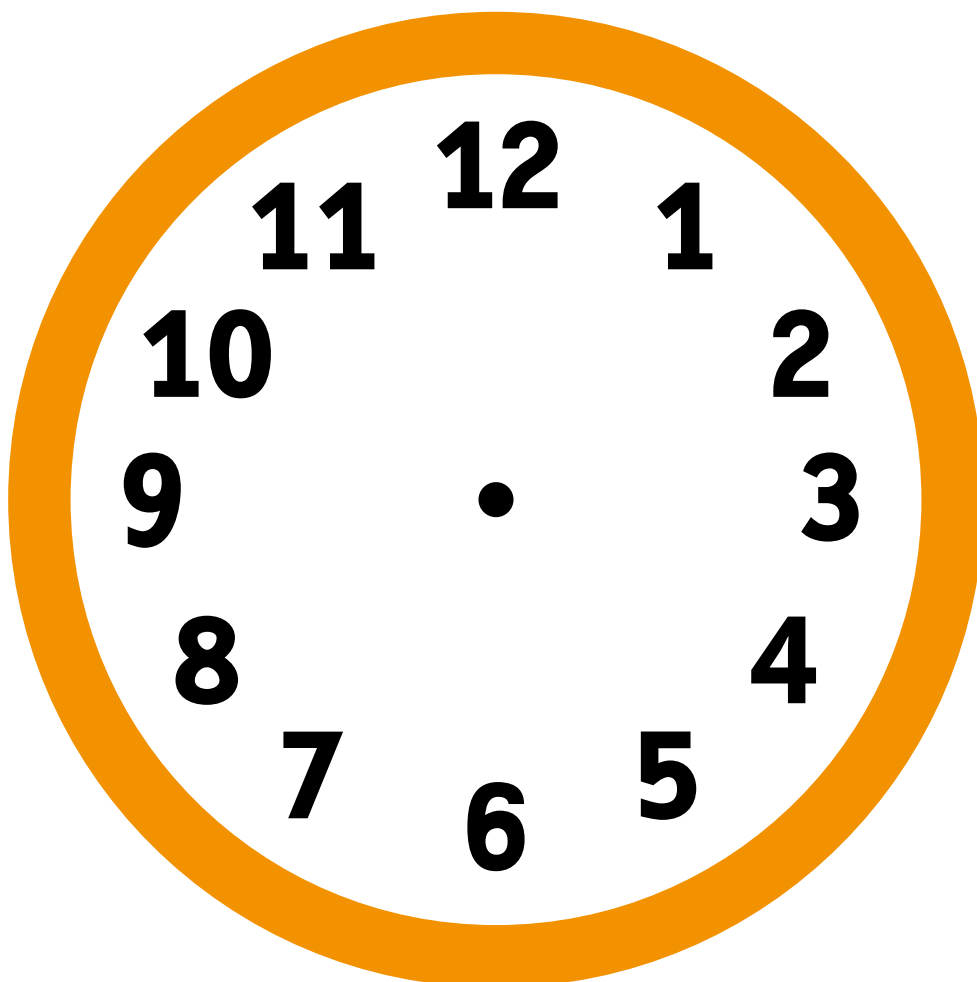


My name is

I'm going to visit the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia

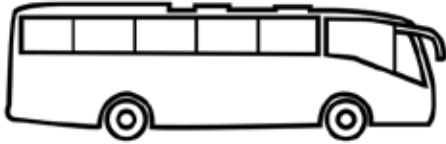
on

at





How do I get to the Basilica of Aquileia?



Bus



Car



Train



On foot



Bicycle

1. Introduction



This guide is made to prepare your visit of the **Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia**.

This is a very big and beautiful Basilica.

Those areas are part of the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia:

- the Church
- the Baptistery
- the South Hall.

In this guide you will find:

- how to buy your ticket
- what the rules are
- what to see
- who can help you.



2. The entrance

There are two ways to get to the Basilica:

- **The first one is a long street with many trees.**

This street is called
Via Popone Patriarca.

If you walk down this street
you arrive in a big square.
Cross the square and turn right.



- **This is the second way to get to the Basilica from the parking site.**
Walk down the street
and turn left.



The entrances of the Church
and the Baptistry are under
the big arches.

If you need help, look at the signs
or ask the people with a badge
and a uniform for help.



3. The ticket office



To visit the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia you can:



Ticket office



Shop

- **Buy your ticket at the museum ticket office or at the shop of the Basilica.**

The ticket office is near the parking site.

The shop is near the street with the trees in Piazza Capitolo.

To get to the ticket office and the shop, you can look at the map.



At the ticket office and the shop you will see this sign



It means that in this place they've thought of you.

Here, you can ask all the questions you need to and ask for help.

When you're at the ticket office,

queue up behind the people who arrived before you
and wait until they all have their ticket.

When nobody is in front of you in the queue, go and talk to the person
at the ticket office, who will give you your ticket.

Here there might be a lot of people, and it can be very noisy.



Basilica di Aquileia ACCESSIBILITÀ | LA BASILICA | LA TUA VISITA | GALLERY | LITURGIE | SHOP | ORARI | CONTATTI | NEWS | CONCERTI

Per singoli e famiglie

VISITE INDIVIDUALI | GRUPPI TURISTICI | GRUPPI DI PELLEGRINI | SCOLARESCHI | REGOLE

Basilica con cripta affreschi e cripta scavi

Con questo biglietto puoi visitare l'attuale basilica con i mosaici del IV secolo, la stupenda cripta affrescata del IX secolo e l'aula mosaicata Teodoriana Noed | Cripta degli scavi risalente al IV secolo.

Acquista on line il tuo biglietto!
[CLICCA QUI](#)

- Buy your ticket online at www.basilicadiaquileia.it

Print your ticket and bring it with you to the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia.

Show it to the person with a badge and a uniform near the entrance of the Church and the Baptistery.



4. The rules

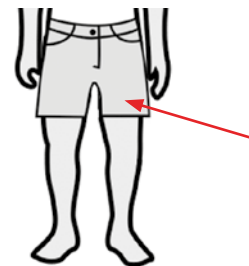
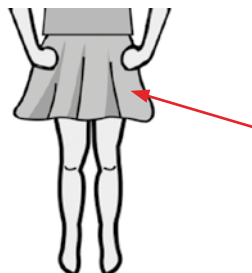


When you walk inside the Church, the Baptistery and the South Hall, you must pay attention to these rules:

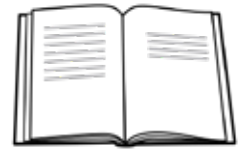
- walk slowly
- speak quietly
- you can take pictures without flash
- you can't eat and you can't drink
- you can't make phone calls
- you can't step over the ropes
- you can't touch the frescoes.

A fresco is a painting made on a wall.

When you enter the Basilica you cannot wear:



5. Tips for visiting the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia



When you organise your visit of the Basilica, remember that:

In Autumn and Winter

- October, November, December, January, February
few people visit the Basilica and it's very cold inside.
Our tips are to wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and to bring a jacket with you because it's cold inside the Basilica.

In Spring and Summer

- March, April, May, June, July, August
there are many people and it's warm inside the Basilica.



If you reserve your guided tour together with others, you will have to wear earphones to hear the explanation.





6. What you can do inside the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia



When you are inside the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia you can:

- visit the Church
- visit the Baptistry and the South Hall
- look at the mosaics and the frescoes
- visit the crypts.

7. Who can help you



At the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia there are some people who can help you.

You can recognize those persons because they wear:

- a badge
- a white or blue **uniform**.

A uniform is a dress that serves to recognize the people who work in the same place.

You can ask them questions and ask for any information you need. All these people are happy that you're there and visit the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia.



8. The bathrooms



You can find the bathrooms behind the ticket office and near the parking site. If you need help, ask the people with a badge how to get to the bathrooms.



9. Where you can rest



Inside the Church you can rest on the benches and on the chairs.



Out of the Basilica you can rest on the benches on the lawn.



There is also a small fountain here, where you can drink water.





10. The shop



This is the shop of the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia.
The shop is in Piazza Capitolo.
Here you can buy books and objects that help you remember your visit at the Basilica.

Look at the map to get to the shop or ask the persons with a badge and a uniform for help.



11. The exit



When you've finished visiting the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia you can go out from the door you see in the picture. If you enjoyed your visit, you can come back whenever you like.



What is the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia



The Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia



The **Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia** is a church of a very long time ago.
This basilica is a very big and special church.

This basilica is called patriarchal because a patriarch ruled there.

A patriarch is a very important bishop.

A bishop is the head of the Christians of a city.

A Christian is someone who prays to Jesus Christ.



Together with the Basilica you can visit:

- **Two crypts.**

A crypt is a room built under a church.

This is the **Crypt of the frescoes.**

In one of the crypts you can see many frescoes.

Here you can see many paintings made on the walls.



This is the **Crypt of the excavations.**

Here you can see the most **ancient** parts of the church.

Ancient means of a very long time ago.



- **The Baptistry.**

The Baptistry is the place where people go to receive **Baptism**. Baptism is the moment when a person becomes a Christian.





- **The South Hall.**

This was the room where people got ready to be baptized.



- **The steeple.**

Many churches had a steeple near them.

A steeple is a very high tower where they keep bells.

Bells ring to remember people to pray.



The Basilica you see today is very different from the one of a very long time ago.

Over the years many bishops had new parts built and had some of the most ancient parts of the basilica changed.

INSIGHTS

For more information about what is a basilica go to page 77.





The history of the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia

Bishop Theodore had part of the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia built, that is the oldest one.

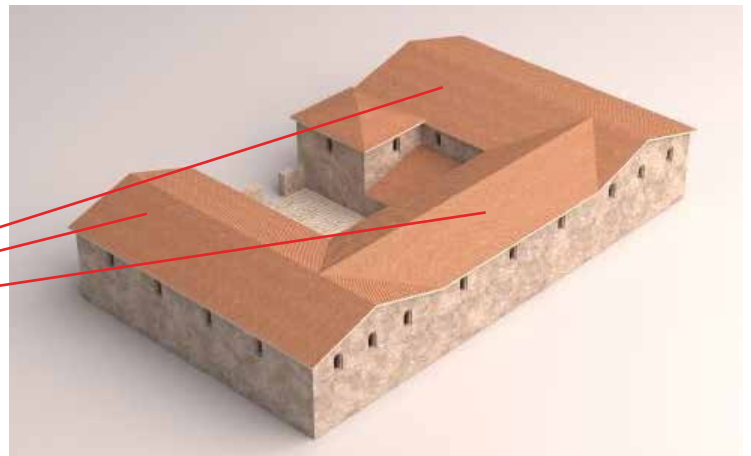
Bishop Theodore was the leader of the **Christians** of Aquileia of a very long time ago.

A Christian is a person who prays to Jesus Christ.

Bishop Theodore decided to have the Basilica built here because Aquileia was a very important and rich city where many Christians lived.

In this drawing you see what the Basilica looked like built by Theodore:

3 large spaces
joined by a corridor.



All the floors were made of **mosaics**.

A mosaic is a drawing made with many little squares of stone or coloured glass placed next to each other.

A mosaic can be made on floors, walls and ceilings.

Making a mosaic is very difficult.

For this reason mosaics are very precious.

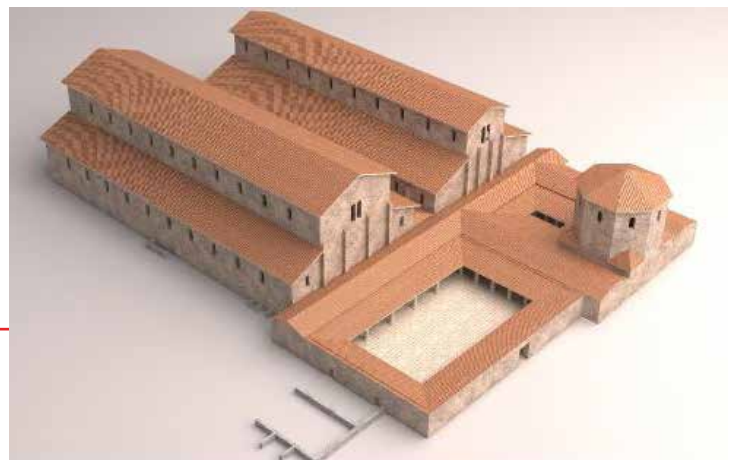
After a long time other bishops had other rooms built and covered the mosaics with other floors.



When the Huns arrived in Aquileia they destroyed the city and part of the Basilica. The Huns were a group of people who lived far away from Italy. The Huns attacked Italian cities to take food and treasures.



After a long time, other bishops had other rooms built and the Basilica became bigger and bigger.



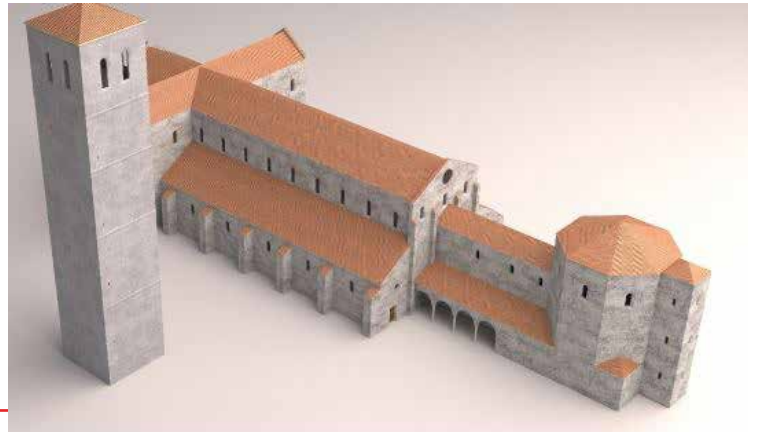
Those bishops had the mosaics covered with other floors. For a long time no one remembered they were there.

After a long time, in the year 1031, **Patriarch Popone** had a much larger Basilica built to remember Mary, the mother of Jesus. A patriarch is a very important bishop.





Popone had the Basilica built over the older parts of the basilica itself. **The Basilica became as you see it today.**



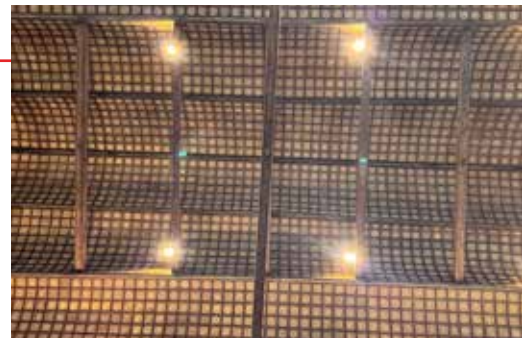
After a long time, another patriarch had some parts of the Basilic fixed, those that had been damaged by earthquakes:

- He had arches added to divide the central aisle from those on the right and left.



The central aisle is a large, long rectangular room. This is the most important part of the basilica.

- He had the ceiling covered with square, painted pieces of wood.



Only a short time ago, about 100 years ago, the people working in the basilica decided to remove the floors to show everyone the mosaics that were underneath.

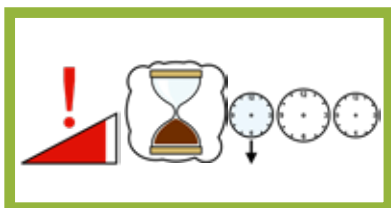
INSIGHTS

For more information about how mosaics are made go to page 79.





A very long time ago



Bishop Theodore has the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia built.



The Unhs burn some parts of the Basilica.



Some other bishops fix the burnt halls and make the Basilica bigger.

Year 1031



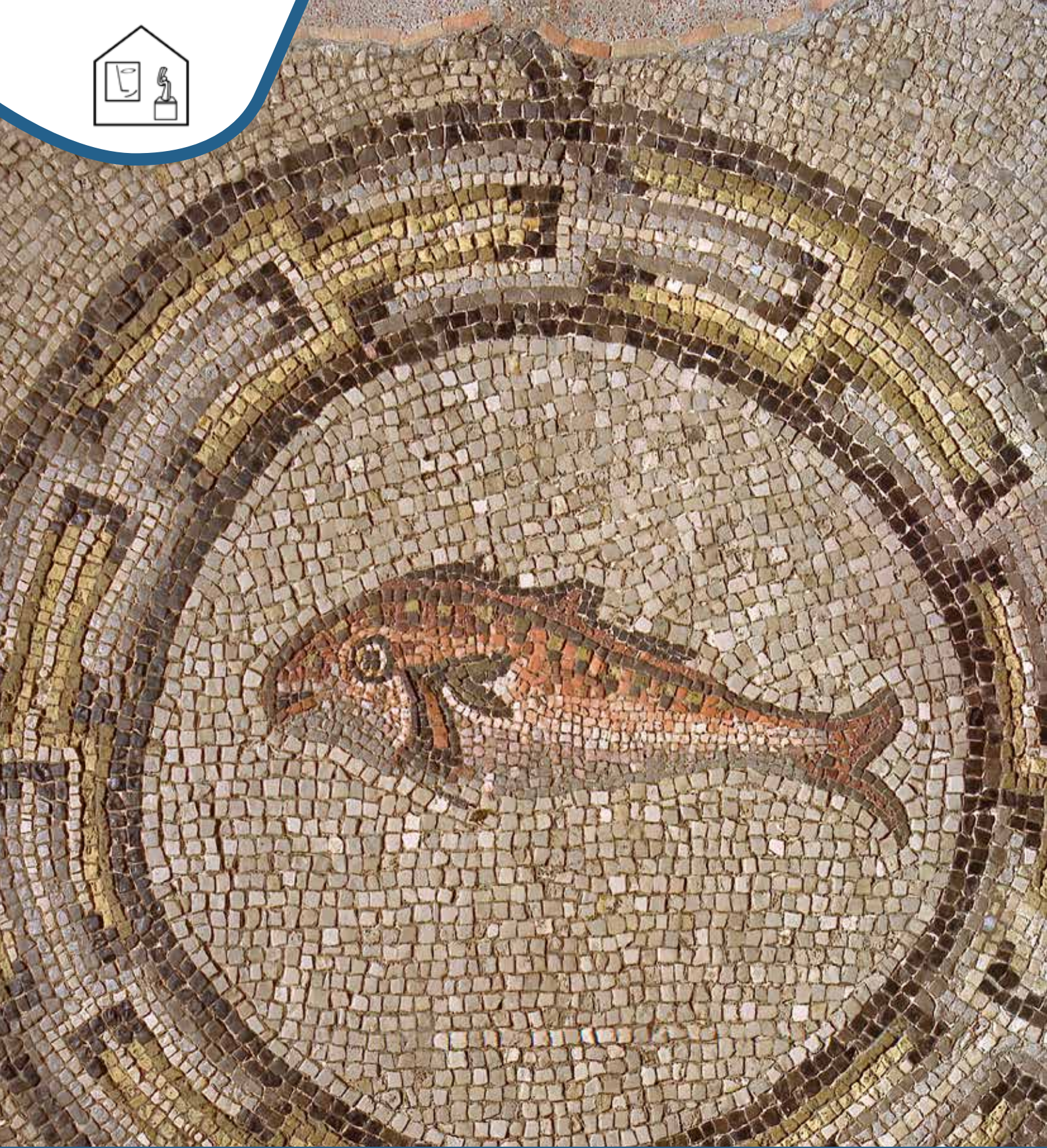
Patriarch Popone has a new Basilica built over the old one.



Today



Many people come to the Basilica to see its very beautiful mosaics.



Visiting the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia





1. What the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia looks like

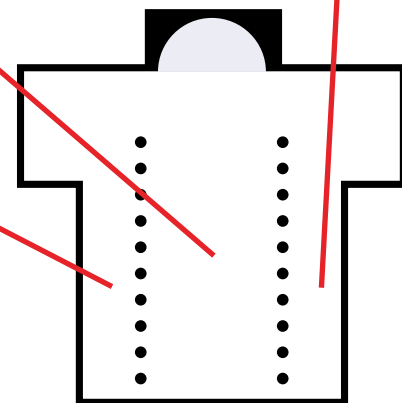


Left aisle

Central aisle

Right aisle

The Basilica of Aquileia is very large and beautiful. This Basilica is so big because many people used to come here to pray. The Basilica is made up of **three aisles**. The aisle is like a very long room.





The biggest and most important aisle is the central aisle.

To the right and left
there are **2 side aisles**.

The side aisles are smaller
rectangular rooms.

The aisles of the church are divided
by many arches and columns.



The floor of the entire basilica is made of **mosaic**.

A mosaic is a drawing made
with many little squares of stone
or of coloured glass placed next to each other.

A mosaic can be made on the floors,
on the walls and on the ceilings.

Making a mosaic is very difficult.

For this reason mosaics are very precious.



The roof of the Basilica is made of wood.
Some parts of the roof are painted with stars.

At the end of the main aisle
you see the **altar**.
The altar is the table that priests
and bishops use to say mass.



Behind the altar is the **apse**.
The apse is in the shape
of a half circle.
In this apse there is a big **fresco**.
A fresco is a painting made on a wall.





On the following pages we explain

- some parts of the mosaics
- the apse fresco.



To see the mosaics you need to walk over a glass walkway.

People cannot walk on the mosaics

because they are very precious and delicate.

The walkway is made of glass

because then you can see what the floor looks like.

Don't be afraid, you can hold onto the handrail if you want.



Looking at some of the mosaics is a bit difficult because they are far away.

Use the photographs on the next few pages

to get a good understanding of how mosaic drawings are made.

INSIGHTS

For more information about how mosaics are made go to page 79.





2. The mosaic of the Good Shepherd



This is the mosaic of the **Good Shepherd**.

You can see this mosaic to the right of the glass walkway near the entrance to the Basilica.

A shepherd is the person who takes care of animals such as sheep, goats, cows.

Here you see the Shepherd with a sheep on his shoulders.

With one hand he is holding the sheep's legs, in the other he has a flute to make music.

A long time ago shepherds used to play the flute for fun.





Near the Shepherd's feet
there is another sheep watching him.
The Shepherd is good to his animals:
he gives them food and drink
to make them grow well.
The Shepherd makes the animals grow
to have milk and meat.
The Shepherd protects his animals
from danger.



**In this mosaic, the Shepherd is drawn to make you think of Jesus.
Jesus is good to people as the Shepherd is good to his animals.
Jesus also protects people so that they can live well.**



To the right and left of the Shepherd are drawings of:

an antelope

a deer



The antelope is an animal that lives in Africa.

Africa is a country very far from Italy where it is very hot.

The mosaicists drew the antelope next to the Shepherd to make you understand that Jesus loves people who live in countries where it is hot.



The deer is an animal that lives in places where it is cold.

The mosaicists drew the deer next to the Shepherd to make you understand that Jesus loves people who live in countries where it is cold.



In fact, for Christians, Jesus loves all the people of the world.



3. Solomon's knot



This is the mosaic of **Solomon's knot**.

Solomon was a very intelligent king who lived a very long time ago.

You can see this mosaic to the left of the walkway of glass near the entrance.

Solomon's knot is made of two rings stuck together.

This knot cannot be untied and the rings always stick together.

A long time ago people used to draw this knot to make everyone understand who Jesus was.



Jesus did the normal things that people do every day.

For example, Jesus slept and ate as you do.

Jesus was also very different from all other people because he did things that no other person could do.

For example:

- he could turn water into wine
- he could heal sick people without using medicine
- he was **resurrected** after death.

Resurrected means that Jesus came back to life after dying.

Some people think that:

- a ring of this knot represents the normal things that Jesus did
- the other ring represents the special things Jesus did.



4. The mosaic of Christian Victory



This is the mosaic of **Christian Victory**.

You can see this mosaic to the left of the glass walkway near the apse.

In this mosaic you see a woman with wings.

A long time ago, this woman was called **Winged Victory**.

People would draw or make statues of Winged Victories to celebrate when a king won a war.

Kings who win wars are strong and important.



The Winged Victory is holding:



1 branch of a plant called palm tree.
The Christian Church uses the palm tree to remember Jesus.

1 crown made from the leaves of a plant called laurel.

The laurel was the plant used to make the crowns of soldiers and of kings who won wars.

Near the feet of the Winged Victory are two baskets:

- 1 full of **grapes**.
Grapes are used to make wine.
- 1 full of **ears of wheat**.
Wheat is used to make bread.

This basket today can no longer be seen clearly because the mosaic is damaged.



During mass, priests use wine and bread to remember Jesus:

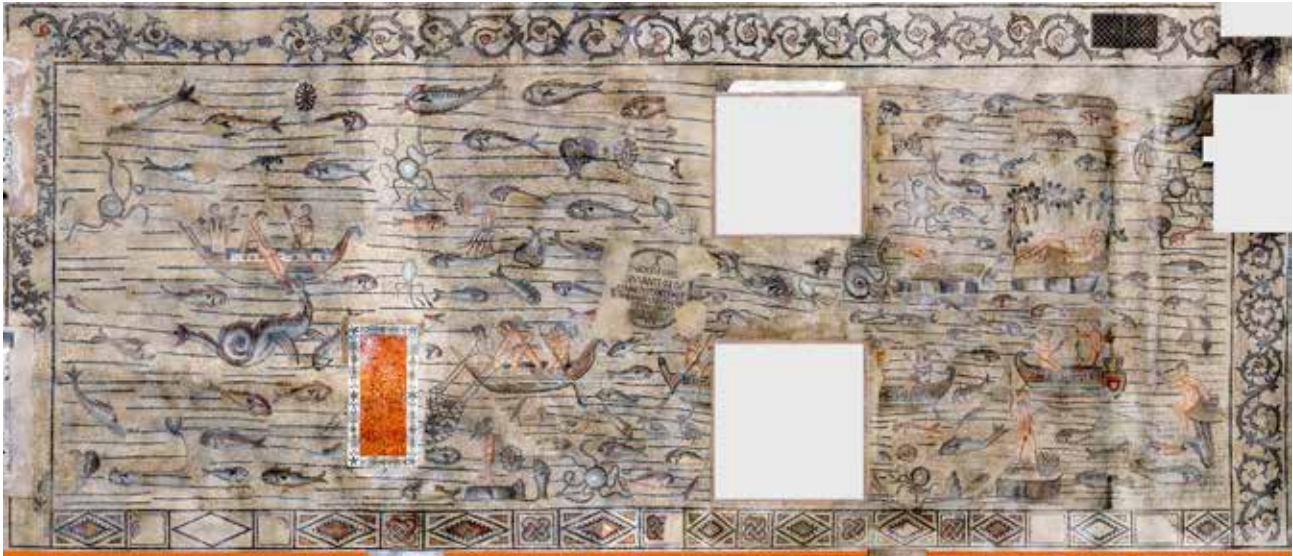
- the wine represents the blood of Jesus
- the bread represents the body of Jesus.

For the Christian Church, it is important for everyone to think how strong Jesus is.

The Winged Victory makes you understand that the Christian religion too is strong and important.



5. The mosaic of Jonah



The most important and largest mosaic in the Basilica is the one that shows you the story of **Jonah**.

You can see this mosaic by going on the glass walkway towards the altar.

The mosaic is before the altar steps.

To see it all you have to look to the left and right.

Jonah was a **prophet**.

Many people believe that some people can talk to God.

These people are called prophets.

Prophets have the task of making known to everyone what God says.

A story from a very long time ago tells that God had spoken to Jonah.

God had told Jonah to go to **Nineveh**

to speak of God to its inhabitants.

Nineveh was a city of a very long time ago that is no longer there.



Jonah, however, had tried to escape in a big boat because he was afraid to go to Nineveh as God had asked him.

Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh because many bad people lived there.

This large mosaic shows you what happened to Jonah after he tried to escape in a big boat.

In the mosaic you see the 3 most important scenes.

A scene is a drawing that shows you a precise moment in a story.

SCENE 1

SCENE 2



SCENE 3



SCENE 1

Here you see sailors throwing Jonah into the water.

The sailors are the people who work on the boats.



The dark lines you see in the drawing are the waves of the sea.

The sea is full of big and small fish.

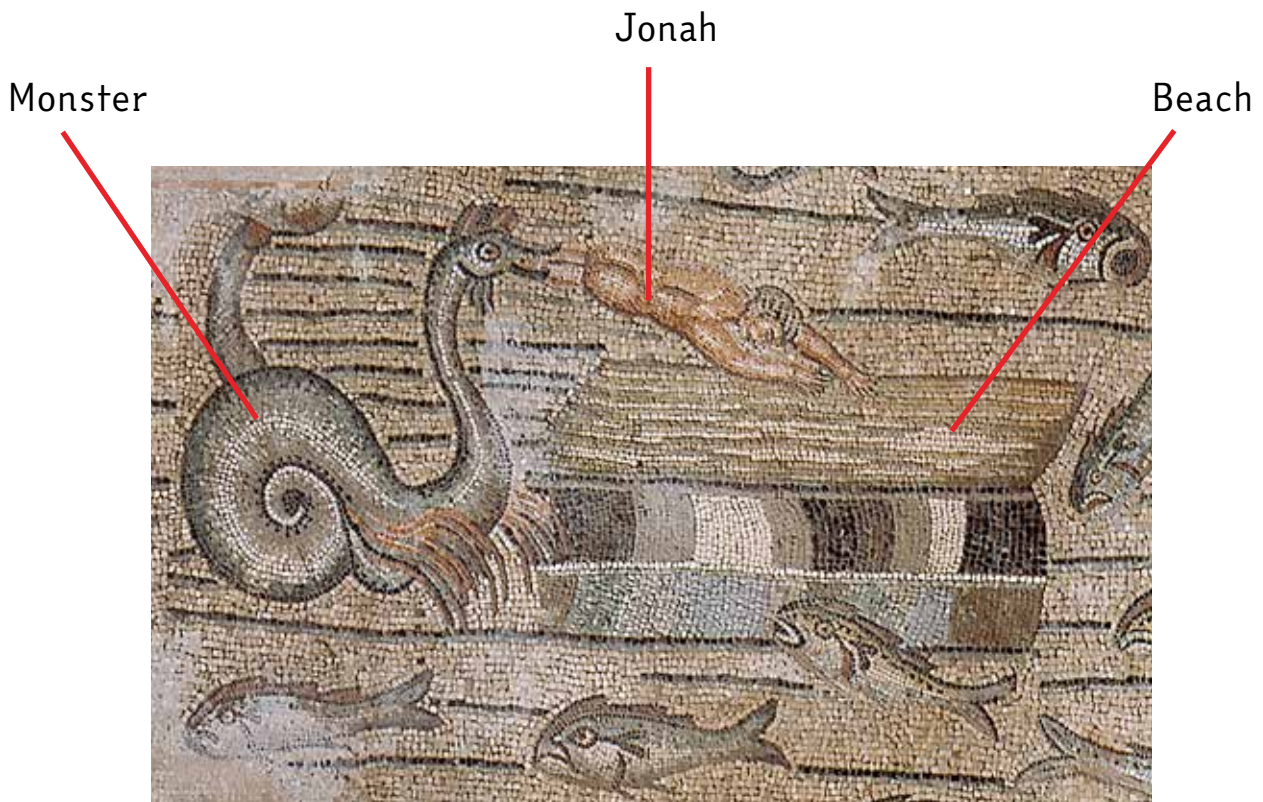
In the middle of the fish there is also a monster that eats Jonah.

The story goes that Jonah stayed inside the monster's belly for three days.

After 3 days, the monster spat Jonah out onto a beach.



SCENE 2



Here you see the monster after 3 days spitting Jonah still alive on a beach.

Around the beach you see the sea with many fish swimming.

The story goes that when Jonah was on the beach he had decided to go to Nineveh as God had asked him. Jonah was glad that he was still alive and wanted to do a good thing. Jonah then decided to go to Nineveh to speak about God to its inhabitants. After listening to Jonah, all the people of Nineveh had started to pray to God.



SCENE 3

Pumpkins



Jonah had gone to Nineveh and had spoken of God to all the people of the city. Afterwards, Jonah was very tired and had decided to rest. **Here you see Jonah lying down under some gourds to rest.**

Around the 3 scenes that show you Jonah's life there is a drawing of a large sea full of fish. If you look closely you can recognise many types of fish and animals that live in the sea.



For example you can see:

- the octopus



- the dolphin



- the sole.



The mosaicists were very good at making these fish because they are the same as the real ones.

INSIGHTS

For more information about the mosaic of Jonah go to page 82.





6. The apse



At the end of the aisle of the church is the **apse**.

The apse is behind the **altar** and is shaped like a half circle.

The altar is the table that priests and bishops use to say mass.

The bishop is the head of the **Christians** in a city.

A Christian is a person who prays to Jesus Christ.

On the walls and ceiling of the apse is a large **fresco**.

A fresco is a painting made on a wall.

A long time ago, there was a smaller basilica here.

Patriarch Popone had a new basilica built on top of the more **ancient**, smaller one.

A patriarch is a very important bishop.

Ancient means of a very long time ago.

Patriarch Popone had this fresco made in the new basilica.



On the ceiling of the apse you see the **Madonna seated on a throne with the baby Jesus on her arm.**

Madonna is another name for Mary, the mother of Jesus.

The throne is the chair of important people.

Around the Madonna are:

- **Saints.**

A saint is a person who prays a lot, who loves Jesus very much and always helps other people.

- **Deacons.**

A deacon is the person who helps the bishop.

- **Patriarchs.**

- **Bishops.**

The bishop is the head of the Christians of a city.

- **Emperors.**

An emperor is like a king with a very large kingdom.



To the right of Madonna are:

- **Saint Ermagoras.**

Saint Ermagoras is the first bishop of Aquileia.

- **Saint Fortunatus.**

Saint Fortunatus was the deacon who worked with Ermagoras when he was the bishop of Aquileia.

- **Emperor Conrad.**

- **Saint Euphemia.**

- **Empress Gisela, wife of Emperor Conrad.**

In the fresco, the emperor and his wife are painted smaller than the other people.

The saints are painted larger because they were very important.



To the left of the Madonna are:

- **Saint Mark.**

A story from long ago tells that Saint Mark arrived in Aquileia to make Jesus known to the people who lived here.

- **Bishop Hilary**

- **Patriarch Popone.**

- **Deacon Tatian.**

You can recognise Popone because he is painted smaller and is holding a model of the Basilica of Aquileia.

A model church is a very small church made of wood or cardboard.

The model church is the same as the real church.

Popone is giving the Madonna the model of the Basilica because this basilica was built to celebrate her.





Below are painted eight other saints from Aquileia.



In the apse there is also a large **organ**.

The organ is like a piano and is played during mass.

Inside the Basilica of Aquileia many concerts are held with this organ.

If you want to know when the concerts are you can look at www.basilicadiaquileia.it



7. The Crypt of the frescoes



This is the **Crypt of the frescoes**.

A crypt is a room built under a church.

This crypt is so called because

all over the walls and ceiling you see very beautiful frescoes.

A fresco is a painting made on a wall.

In the entire crypt there are 23 frescoes.

A long time ago Patriarch Maxentius

had this crypt built to put the relics of saints in.

A patriarch is a very important **bishop**.

A bishop is the head of the Christians of a city.



A relic is a small part of the body of a saint like a piece of bone or a tuft of hair or a piece of his clothing.

A long time ago people used to pray before the relics of **saints**.

A saint is a person who prays a lot, who loves Jesus a lot and always helps other people.

Some of these relics are of Saint Ermagoras and Saint Fortunatus, the most important saints of Aquileia.

The relics are still inside this crypt.





Sometime after the construction of the crypt, the Patriarchs of Aquileia decided to have the frescoes done to make the crypt more beautiful and to make the stories of Jesus and some of the saints known. The frescoes you see in the ceiling tell the stories of the most important saints for Aquileia:

- **Saint Ermagoras**
- **Saint Fortunatus.**

There are many other frescoes on the walls of the crypt.



One of the most important frescoes is that of the **Deposition from the Cross**.



In this fresco you see the moment in which they remove the dead Jesus from the cross.

His mother **Mary** and **John the Evangelist** hold the **body** of **Jesus**.

John the Evangelist was an **apostle** of Jesus.

An **apostle** is a friend of Jesus who listens and tries to do what Jesus says.

Mary and John the Evangelist have a **halo** around their heads.

A halo is a golden, luminous circle that painters paint over the heads of holy people.

Mary brings her face close to that of Jesus.

Mary is very sad because her son has died and embraces him.





To the left of Jesus are four women.

The women are all close together and embrace each other.

These women have long dresses and cloaks that cover their whole bodies.

You only see the faces of these women.

If you look closely you see that they are very sad because Jesus is dead.

Each of these four women is painted differently.

The painter painted these women

to show you that each one suffered in a different way

for the death of Jesus.





This woman is trying
not to look
because seeing Jesus dead
is very painful.

This woman wipes her tears
with her cloak.
This woman also
does not look at Jesus.



This woman looks sadly at Jesus
and covers her mouth with her cloak.
Sometimes, when a person
is very sad
wants to scream in pain.
In order not to scream this woman
covers her mouth.

This woman covers her eyes
with one hand.
The other hand is next to
her mouth.
This woman is so sad
that she can no longer look
at Jesus and speak.



In the bottom right-hand corner you see Nicodemus with a rapier. Nicodemus is removing from Jesus' feet the nails used to place him on the cross.





Below the fresco of the deposition of Jesus is this fresco showing **two knights**.

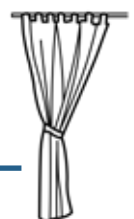
A long time ago knights were very powerful and strong people who rode horses.



On the drawings of the knights you see red stripes.

The painter painted these stripes

because he wanted to pretend to cover the fresco with a curtain.





These 2 knights represent a fight scene.



This soldier is turned towards the other soldier. He is holding a bow and wants to shoot an arrow to kill the other soldier.



This soldier is **riding** towards the other soldier. This soldier is holding a **spear** to kill the other soldier. A spear is a long stick with a metal tip.



8. The Crypt of the excavations



This room is called the **Crypt of the excavations** because here you can see **archaeological excavations**.

An archaeological excavation is a place where you dig for objects, pieces of houses and buildings that have been there for a very long time. The people who look for and study these things are called **archaeologists**. Things of a long and a very long time ago are often under the ground and archaeologists have to dig to find them.



Archaeologists started doing these excavations some time ago and found parts of:

- walls
- mosaic floors
- frescoes
- columns.

All these things were there from a very long time ago.

To see these archaeological excavations you have to walk over a glass walkway.

People cannot walk on archaeological excavations because they are very precious and delicate.

The walkway is made of glass because then you can see what the excavations look like.

Don't be afraid, if you want you can hold on to the handrail.



In this crypt you can see:

- Floors and parts of walls of a house of a very long time ago.

These floors are made in mosaic with **geometric drawings**.

In a geometric design you see shapes such as circles, squares, rectangles.



- Floors and parts of walls of the first church of Aquileia built by Bishop Theodore.

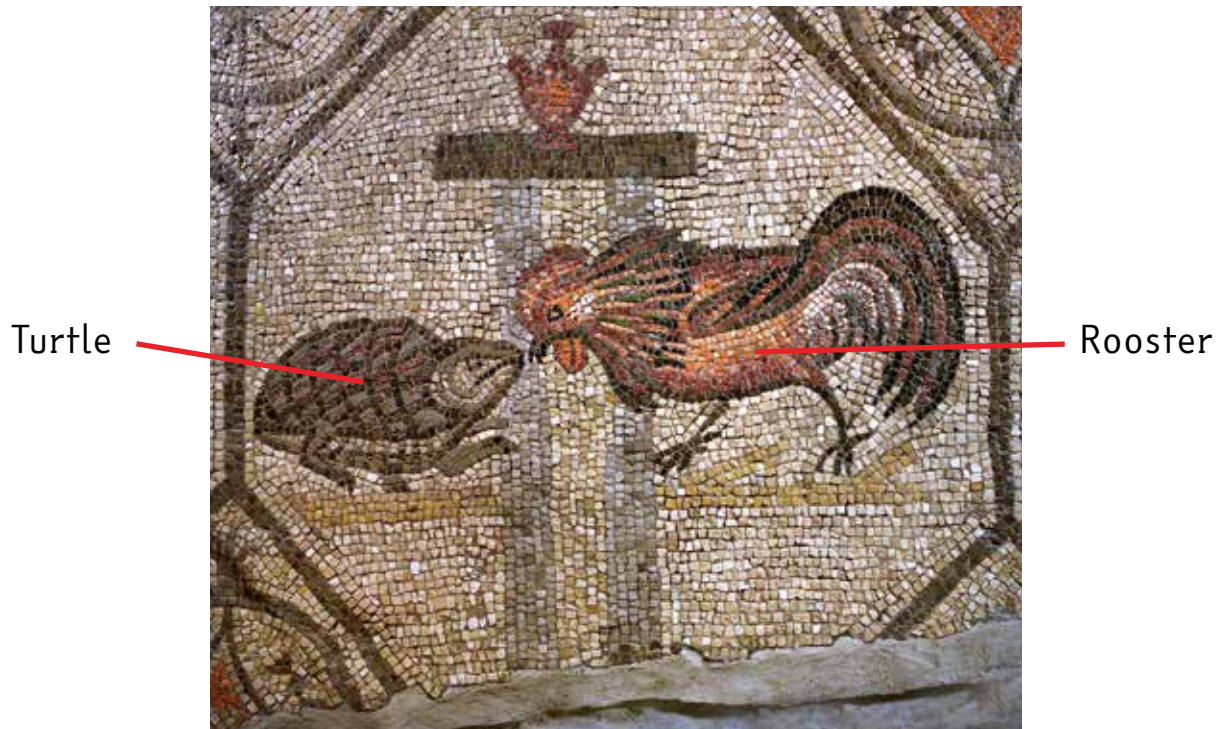


- Floors and parts of walls of the ancient basilica that the Huns had burnt a very long time ago.





9. The mosaic of the rooster and the turtle



This is the mosaic of the **rooster and the turtle**.

You can see this mosaic inside the Crypt of the excavations.

In this mosaic you see a **rooster** and a **turtle**.

The rooster is about to attack the turtle.

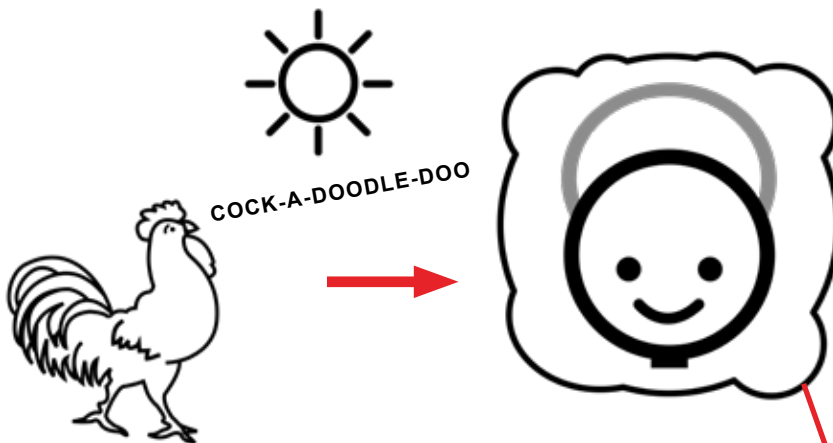
In fact, you see the rooster stretching its neck towards the turtle to strike it with its beak.

The turtle crushes itself on the ground because it is afraid of the rooster.





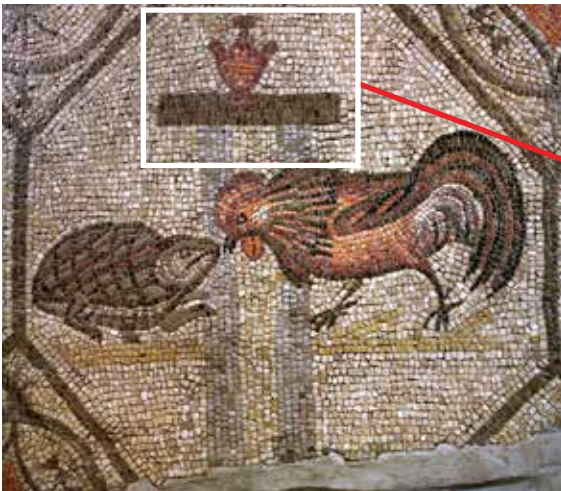
A very long time ago
Christians used to draw the turtle
to make people think of darkness and wickedness.
Christians thought this
because the turtle's ancient name meant
animal that lives in the dark.



A long time ago, Christians drew the rooster
to make people think of sunlight and good things.
Christians thought this
because the rooster crows every morning when the sun comes out.



In the mosaic, the rooster wins against the turtle because it is good. In fact, Christians thought that light and good things are stronger and more important than darkness and wickedness.



Between the rooster and the turtle is a column with a vase on it. Inside the vase is some **perfume**. Perfume smells good. Smelling good perfume makes people feel good. The perfume on top of the column is the prize the rooster wins after wrestling with the turtle.

The mosaicists drew the perfume here to represent the beautiful things in life. Good people can have these beautiful things, like the rooster who wins the prize for fighting the turtle.



10. The Baptistry



This is the **Baptistry of the Basilica of Aquileia**.

The baptistry is the place where people go who have to do **Baptism**.

Baptism is the moment when a person becomes a **Christian**.

Christians are the people who pray to Jesus.

Today, during Baptism the person's head is bathed with **holy water**.

Holy water is the special water that is used at important moments for the life of Christians.



Bishop Chromatius had this Baptistery built a long time ago.
Bishop Chromatius had this baptistery built
because in Aquileia so many people wanted to be baptised
and become Christians.



Baptismal font

In the centre of the Baptistery is the **baptismal font**.
The baptismal font is a stone basin filled with holy water.
Today you do not see the water because this baptismal font
is no longer used.



Steps

If you look inside the basin you can see some steps.

A long time ago, people who were to be baptised would descend the steps to bathe their whole bodies in the holy water.

Around the baptismal font you can see 6 columns of a stone called marble.

These columns were used to make a corridor around the baptismal font.

To the left of the baptismal font there is a door.

If you go through that door you enter the **South Hall**.

Inside the South Hall people went after Baptism.





11. The South Hall



This hall is called **South Hall**.

A very long time ago, into the South Hall came people who had just received **Baptism**.

This is where people would get dressed again.



In the floor of the South Hall you can see a large **mosaic**.

A mosaic is a drawing made of many little squares of stone or of coloured glass placed next to each other. These squares are called tiles.

A mosaic can be made on floors, on walls and on ceilings.

Making a mosaic is very difficult which is why mosaics are very precious.

In the mosaic of the South Hall you can see many drawings.

In some parts of the mosaic you see drawn

- **animals** such as the lamb
- the **Solomon's knot**.





When you are inside the South Hall on the wall to the right you can see another piece of a mosaic.

A long time ago this piece of mosaic was part of the floor of a room between the Basilica and the South Hall.

Today this room is no longer there.

If you go near the mosaic

you can see the coloured tiles placed next to each other.

You can see tiles:

- blue
- yellow
- brown
- white
- black.



Some tiles are golden.



Here you see a **vine plant**.
The vine plant
is the plant that makes
the grapes.

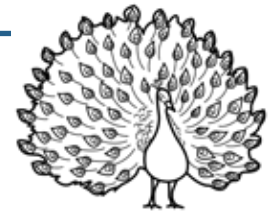


Leaves and branches

Grapes



Near the branches is a large **peacock** with its tail open.



You cannot see the whole peacock's head because the mosaic is from a very long time ago and is damaged.

The peacock has a blue body and a tail in many colours such as

- yellow
- green
- brown.

The Christian Church uses the peacock to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus.

The resurrection is when Jesus came back to life after he died.



The peacock's tail feathers fall each autumn and grow back the following spring.

This is why the Christian Church uses the peacock to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus.

The fallen feathers make people think of the death of Jesus.

The feathers that grow back make one think of Jesus coming back to life after having died.



Inside the South Hall you also see some **sarcophagi**.

Sarcophagi are **coffins** made of stone.

The coffin is the place where you put persons when they die.

Only very important and rich people had the sarcophagus as their coffin.

Over time, the mosaic of the South Hall was damaged and many pieces came off.



Today, you only see pieces of the mosaic.

Some parts of the mosaics have dark stains.

These are the parts that were burnt when the Huns and Attila burnt the Basilica.



INSIGHTS

For more information about how mosaics are made go to page 79.





What is a basilica

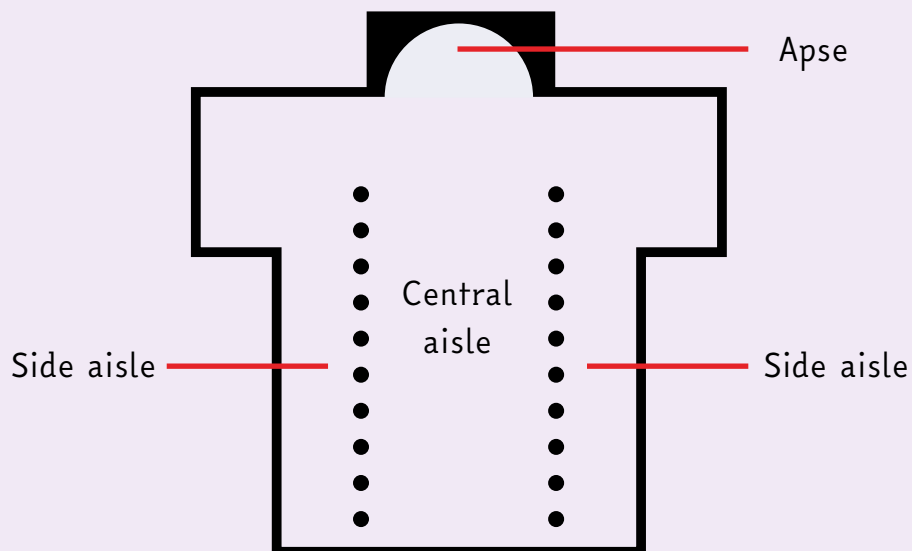
Today, very large special churches are called basilicas.

Basilicas are always built in cities

where there are many Christians.

A Christian is a person who prays to Jesus Christ.

A basilica always has:



- **A central aisle.**

The aisle is a large, long rectangular room.

This is the most important part of the basilica.

- **An apse.**

This is the part at the end of the aisle and has the shape of a half circle.

- **2 side aisles.**

The side aisles are smaller rectangular rooms.

The side aisles are to the right and left of the central aisle.



A long time ago, a basilica was not a church.

When the ancient Romans ruled in Italy, basilicas were the place where people discussed important laws for a city.

Every important city had its basilica.

In the apse sat the judge who decided the laws of the city.

After a very long time, Christians started to use the basilicas of the ancient Romans to pray to Jesus Christ.

Christians used basilicas because they were very large and many people could fit inside them.

Where before the judge sat,

the Christians put the **altar**.

The altar is the table that priests and bishops use to do mass.



After a while, Christians started to build

their basilicas to use them as churches in important cities.

Even today, basilicas are used as churches and Christians go there to pray.



How mosaics are made



A mosaic is a drawing made with many small squares of stone or coloured glass placed next to each other. These squares are called **tiles**.

The tiles used in Aquileia are as big as this little square.



A mosaic can be made on floors, walls and ceilings. Making a mosaic is very difficult. For this reason mosaics are very precious. The people who make mosaics are called **mosaicists**. These people are very good because they can make beautiful designs using very small tiles.



To make a mosaic you make many layers on top of each other of earth and pebbles.

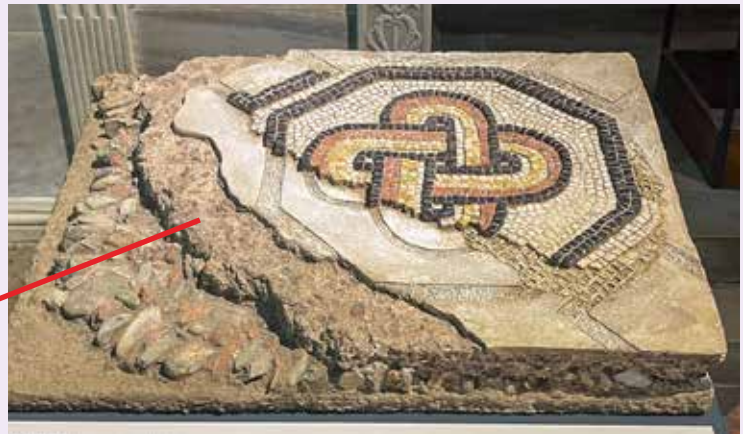
These layers of earth and pebbles must be smooth and flat.

On the last layer of earth, the mosaicists make lines to mark where to put the tiles.

Next, they place the tiles of different colours to make the drawing.

To the right of the **altar** of the church of Aquileia you can see a piece of mosaic.

Here you can see the layers of earth where you put the mosaic tiles.



The altar is the table that priests and bishops use to say mass.

The people who work in the Basilica asked famous mosaicists to make this piece of mosaic.

The people who work in the Basilica wanted to show you how a mosaic is made.

Here you can see and touch all the layers of earth and pebbles that are under the tiles.





The mosaics in the Basilica of Aquileia are from a very long time ago.

Bishop Theodore called some very good mosaicists to make this floor.

In these mosaics many animals are drawn and many important people for the Christian religion too.

A very long time ago, priests used these mosaics to make people understand some difficult things about religion with drawings.

These mosaics are very famous and many people come to see them from all over the world.



Learning about the life of Jesus with mosaics

The **catechists** of the Basilica of Aquileia used the mosaics of Jonah to help people discover and learn the life of Jesus and the important things he said. Catechists are the people who explain the life of Jesus and the things he said. The life of Jesus is told in the books called **Gospels**.



In **scene 1** you see Jonah looking dead after a monster had eaten him. Jonah, however, had remained alive inside the monster's belly. The catechists showed **scene 1** to explain that Jesus had also died. Jesus, however, had really died on the cross.



In **scene 2** you see the monster after three days spitting Jonah still alive on a beach.

The catechists showed scene 2 to explain the **resurrection of Jesus**.

Resurrection is when Jesus came back to life after dying. Jesus also came back to life after 3 days like Jonah.



In **scene 3** you see Jonah resting quietly under some gourds.

The catechists showed this scene to make it clear that Jesus wants all people to be peaceful during life and after death.

When you see this symbol



it means that in this place
you find people who can help you.
They can help you understand artworks,
paintings, statues, houses, castles.

The non-profit association L'abilità
invented Museo per tutti.

The association L'abilità is made up
of a group of people
who take care of people with disabilities.

The association L'abilità wants everyone
to understand artworks.

The Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia
wants everyone to enter and see
the Basilica and its mosaics.

MUSEO PER TUTTI
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