

At least the church had a Baroque look, that of nowadays thanks to the new inside decoration, with stuccoes, plasters and frescos.

After the earthquake of 6 June 1882 the church was restored again: two white marble altars were placed in the aisles, and a pipe organ was also placed.

In the fifties of XX century, after the restoration works in St. Sofia, the altar of St. Giovenale, the Virgin's and St. Giovenale's statues were moved in St. Salvatore.

After the earthquake of 21 August 1962 the Church was closed and opened up again in 2001.

PARROCCHIA SANTA SOFIA

CHURCH OF SANTISSIMO SALVATORE

BENEVENTO



The Church of "Santissimo Salvatore", in Stefano Borgia road, can be considered one of the most ancient churches of Benevento, despite its Baroque look.

In the past it was called "*Ecclesia S. Salvatoris de Porta*



Somma", and it was certainly founded by Longobards. A document, which dates 22 february 926, mentions the "*monasterio Domini Salvatoris*" and also shows its location.

Moreover, the excavations done between 1997 and 1999, when the Church was under repair, located parts of walls dating back to VIII century. Probably, at that time, the Church had a quadrangular form, with a side of about ten metres and two apses. The floor was a metre under the present floor: we can see the basements of the ancient columns and their position let we know the arrangement with two aisles of the Longobard Church.

The excavations also dug out some Longobard graves, dating back to VII and VIII century. Probably those graves were outside a little Church, where now there is the high altar and which dates back to VI century, then hidden by VIII century plan.

In 1161, after restoration works, the Archbishop Enrico reconsacrated the Church. With these works some pointed arches were placed in the church and nowadays

they are visible on the inside walls, on the sacristy door and on the arches between the left aisle and the nave, but also on the front, where the portal of the church is still in part visible. Some graves of the XII century are interesting: one is "a logette", that is a lodging for dead's head, and another is "bisoma", that is with two places.

In 1650 the right aisle and the high altar were realized.

After the earthquake of 5 june 1688 the Archbishop Vincenzo Maria Orsini, the future Pope Benedetto XIII, financed important restoration works: on the front the pronaos was realized, inside the wooden truss was hidden by a vault that later was painted with a fresco representing the Saviour between Angels, the right apse was closed and the left apse was transformed in sacristy.

