

“Car Park count” sign coming to Sacro Monte

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From now on, it will not be necessary to go as far as **Piazzale Pogliaghi** to find out if there are places to park your car on Sacro Monte; an information board will already tell you in Sant’Ambrogio, at the beginning of the road that leads to Santa Maria del Monte, on the corner of Via Virgilio and Via Cellini.

The information board presented today is already operating, and is part of a detection system that uses video cameras. For some time, data has been sent to an information board that already exists higher up, at the crossroads of the road to Santa Maria del Monte and Campo dei Fiori.

However, today’s sign is an important “plus”, because it enables tourists to decide, well in advance, what to do when visiting the hamlet. They can already decide in town whether to continue, or to find some alternative transport to reach the top.

The board cost €38,000, and it monitors the 107 parking spaces in Piazzale Pogliaghi (excluding the 27 private cars, which are not counted among those coming in and going out), in addition to the 70-80 cars on Via Delle Pizzelle, which are added on holidays and Sundays.

The “count” is done by a camera placed on the access road to the square, on the way in, and on the way out, as explained by the council technician Francesco Bernasconi and the representatives of the company that installed the two systems, Project Aumatics.

“This system will improve accessibility to Sacro Monte,” explained Councillor **Riccardo Santinon**. “However, this form of monitoring also lets us consider the numbers, and the actual daily parking needs of the area.”

“Accessibility to Sacro Monte is a complex problem, for which we can’t make generalisations,” Councillor Sergio Ghiringhelli pointed out when speaking about a proposal to pedestrianise the Sacro Monte area. “For example, the problem of parking at the First Chapel concerns those who walk along the Via Sacra. Parking in Via Pizzalle and in Piazzale Pogliaghi is of interest to those going to the hamlet or straight to mass. The idea of parking near the cable car is of interest to anyone who wants the experience of this means of transport. Sacro Monte is not a single entity, from the point of view of accessibility. And the next administration will have to consider this issue in full.”

di Stefania Radman Translated by Francesco Provasi (Reviewed by Prof. Rolf Cook)