

THE BELL OF INTROD

INTROD

At one time it was customary to engrave the name of a patron saint on church bells, and people often informally called them by that very name.

The major church bell in Introd bears two names engraved on it, St. Paul and St. Mary: according to an ancient custom, the latter was called "salva terram", and the appellation could not have been more appropriate.

Mon-Pepè is the Franco Provençal name of the mountain overhanging the village of Introd. There, one day of bad weather, in the midst of a frightful storm, a devil was about to topple the peak over the village. The bell dedicated to Saint Mary began to ring, as was the custom in case of danger. A little below the top was another devil who, in the roar of thunders, shouted to the first one, "topple the mountain over the village, topple it down! The other replied, "I can't, Mary is ringing, I can't!" The bell had saved the village... They say that St. Mary personally intervened that day; they say she stood on the rock, there in the middle of the forest and prevented the devil from toppling the mountain. From that day onwards, footprints can be seen on the rock: the smaller ones belonged to Mary, while, a little further on, the devil's hooves appear.

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