



## CHURCH OF MERCY OF VAGOS

1658 | 1883

The Church of Mercy of Vagos was built in 1658, next to the Town's early hospital, so *"the poor or those who are sick there can hear mass more comfortably"*, constructed by Judge Captain Agostinho de Matos Cardoso and Chamberlain António Fernandes.

The parish records from 1721 tell us that in this hostel, called the Hospital of St. James, a new Brotherhood of Senhor dos Passos ("Lord of the Stations of the Cross") was present, who continued to give the hostel its *"old usage, providing for the poor who bring guide letters and providing boats to the sick and cripples to the Town of Aveiro"*.

In the 19th century, the buildings of the hostel and two granaries, one older than the other, still existed next to the Church of Mercy. In December 1879, the early church, already quite in ruins, unexpectedly collapsed, at which time the image of the Virgin of Mercy was lost. It was then demolished to expand and build the new chapel for the Sisterhood of Senhor dos Passos of Vagos, designed by engineer João da Maia Romão in 1877 and completed in 1883.

It was restored in 2004.

Inside, the images of Senhor dos Passos and Our Lady of Sorrows can be seen. These are usually part of the Vagos Stations of the Cross Procession during Lent, which includes musical accompaniment.

The highlights are the 19th century altarpiece in gilded woodcarving, crowned by the pelmet of the crossing's arch, completed in 1908 by Manuel Bolais Mónica Júnior, as well as the images of Senhor da Cana Verde (Ecce Homo), Virgin of Joy, St. Thomas and five 17th century paintings of the Stations of the Cross.

The bell tower houses the bell of the Municipality of Vagos, dated 1857, the foundation bell, from 1883, and the big bell from 1945.

### **Timeline:**

**1658** - Construction of the early Church of Our Lady of Mercy of Vagos, next to the Hospital of St. James, with two granaries and a hostel.

**1694-07-19** - Handover of the management of the Church of Mercy of Vagos to the Brotherhood of Senhor Jesus dos Passos, in accordance with the new statutes approved on this date.

**1721-05-17** - The parish records for the Town of Vagos refer to the Church of Mercy of Vagos, built approximately sixty years ago next to the Hospital of St. James and former Brotherhood of Souls which, despite having this title, received no royal provision, being managed by the people and called Chapel of Senhor dos Passos.

**1876-03-19** – Reform of the statutes of the Brotherhood of Senhor dos Passos of Vagos.

**1877** - Project for building the current church by João da Maia Romão.

**1879** - Demolition of the original Church, after structural walls collapsed, the original altarpiece and image of the Virgin of Mercy having been lost as a result.

**1883** - Completion of work on the Church of Mercy in Vagos.

**2004** - Requalification of the building, with the addition of the image of the Virgin of Mercy or Virgin of the Mantle on the façade.

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**Portugal, Aveiro, Vagos, Civil parish merger of Vagos and Santo António**