



## PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES OF VAGOS

XII | XVI-XVII Centuries | 1974

Built at the end of the 16th century, the building underwent major renovations during the second half of the 18th century.

Due to the need for space for National Road 109, the 18th century church *ad orientem*, whose façade faced the road, was demolished in 1972, and a new church was built in 1974, which reconfigured the orientation from south to north. The project, by the architect, António Madeira Portugal, applied the aesthetic elements of the original church to the façade, reusing the portal and an identical configuration of the 1865 bell tower, maintaining the early limestone arch and an epigraphic tombstone from the late 16th century inside the galilee.

Images of Saint James (16th century) and Our Lady of Victory can be found in the spacious nave, with the pipe organ on the right, inaugurated in 2005, being especially noteworthy. Regional jewellery dating to the transitional period between the 16th-17th century and the woodcarving in the image of Saint Mark from the 15th century are particularly valuable items under the protection of the Vagos parish.

Originally, in addition to the altarpiece in the chancel, there were two side altarpieces at an angle next to the crossing's arch, one dedicated to the Holy Spirit and the other to Our Lady of the Rosary, and two chapels in the nave, that of Jesus Christ or Blessed Sacrament and the altarpiece of Our Lady of Victory, totalling five missing altars.

The pilgrimage of Our Lady of Vagos is celebrated on the Monday after Holy Spirit Sunday and the feast of St. James on the 25th of July.

### **Timeline:**

**1139** - Vagos is mentioned, with an older documentary reference, in the "Holy Book" of the Monastery of Santa Cruz of Coimbra, by the will of Telo Mendes, bestowing this Monastery properties "...*quas habeo hereditario jure ex meis parentibus...in Vaagos.*"

**1220** - According to the Inquiries, the Church of Vagos is dedicated to the apostle Saint James, on the pilgrimage to Compostela along the coast, with royal patronage from the Hermitage of Santa Maria of Vagos, the Templars possessing a house and a dock.

**1281** – By the bull of Pope John XXII, King Dinis is granted a subsidy of a tenth of the Kingdom's ecclesiastical income for a period of three years for the war against the Moors. In 1321, the Church of St. James of Vagos was taxed by the Diocese of Coimbra for 160 pounds, a quarter of the amount taxed at the Church of Soza and twice the amount taxed at the Church of Ílhavo.

**1296-10-13** – Inquiry by King Dinis and registration of fees imposed on residents of Vagos, Sorães, Ílhavo and Verdemilho.

**1380** – The lordship of Vagos is granted to Gonçalo Gomes da Silva, 1st lord of Vagos, chief mayor of Montemor-o-Velho and lord of Tentúgal, Buarcos and Unhão, ambassador of Pope Urban VI in Rome.

**1412-02-26** - King João I confirms the donation of the Town of Vagos to João Gomes da Silva, his noble knight who was to accompany him in the Conquest of Ceuta in 1419 with a galley. The lordship of Vagos, as a descendant of the Telo Meneses family, held the title of Count of Aveiras and Marquis of Vagos.

**1452** - The Church of Vagos is donated by King Afonso V to the friars of the Monastery of São Marcos in Coimbra, of the Order and Congregation of St. Jerome, founded in 1395 by the lord of Vagos, João Gomes da Silva, becoming its patron until 1834, at which time it was dissolved.

**1514-08-12** – The Town of Vagos receives a Charter from King Manuel I.

**1721-05-17** – The Church of Vagos is described in the parish records provided by the parish priest, Friar Eusébio de Santa Clara.

**1758-04-20** – The Church of Vagos is described in the parish records provided by the parish priest, Friar José de São Luís.

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