

ANCIENT CHURCH OF SAINT ANDREW OF VAGOS

XVII Century | 1813

The church of Saint Andrew of Vagos was rebuilt in the 17th century and is believed to have been built over a primitive chapel attached to a Templar hospice, facing west on the hill surrounded by a stream which flows into the Boco River.

It has a triangular pediment with a cruciform finish, a straight door topped by a square window and a tile panel depicting the Apparition of the Virgin of the Rosary of Fatima, produced by the Aleluia Factory in Aveiro. The adjacent bell tower, on the right, has an octagonal pyramidal crown with pyramidal pinnacles at the corners and is topped by a weathervane. The frame of the front bell tower window bears the inscribed date of 1813, the year its construction was completed.

Of particular interest are the 16th-century images of Saint Andrew and Saint Sebastian, displayed in the gilded altarpiece of the neoclassical 19th-century chancel, with a tabernacle and a painting on the centre panel alluding to the devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, dating from the late 1950s. In the nave, there is an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus from the early 20th century in polychrome wood by the sculptor Guilherme Ferreira Thedim, which has survived even though the original side altarpieces have disappeared. The original octagonal limestone baptismal font still remains under the bell tower. In 1961, it was expanded through the construction of an annex on the left side, designed by António Martins Gamelas. The pulpit and the high choir were removed and the nave was covered in tiles in 2001.

The church parish of Santo André, established on 29 June 1956 and separated from the church parish of São Tiago de Vagos, had a new parish church built in 1983.

The feast in honour of Santo Andrew of Vagos is celebrated on 30 November.