



PARISH CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE OF VAGOS

XV Century | XIX Century | 1982

The Parish Church of St. Catherine was built in the place of the previous chapel in 1982. Its architectural design consists of a single nave with a tower and side bell tower, based on the architectural project of the engineer, Alfredo Gonçalves Ferreira Soares, inaugurated on 17th July 1983. The polychrome limestone image of Saint Catherine of Alexandria from the 15th century is still on display inside the Church.

The parish of Santa Catarina was established on 25th November 1987, separated from the parish of Covão do Lobo.

The parish of Santa Catarina was part of the former municipality of Sorães, dissolved in 1842, former patronage of the Order of Malta managed by the Knights Hospitaller of St. John of Jerusalem and Commendation of Ansemil. The early Chapel of St. Catherine is described in the parish records of Covão do Lobo in 1752, its image being considered miraculous. Tradition states that it owes its name to the legend of St. Catherine of Alexandria which tells of her passing through one of the hills in the area, and that her footprints were imprinted on a rock in the area.

The feast of St. Catherine is celebrated on the Sunday following the 25th of November, and the feast in honour of St. Thomas and St. Anthony is celebrated on the last Sunday of July.

Timeline:

1154-01-01 – The Monastery of Santa Cruz de Coimbra receives Vila de Sorães (Santa Catarina) by will of Martin Anaia and his wife, Elvira Afonso.

1166-12-00 – King Afonso Henriques offers the Castle of Santa Olaia (Eulália) to his friend D. Teotónio, first prior of Santa Cruz of Coimbra, in exchange for the town of Sorães (Santa Catarina), Verdemilho, São João de Loure, Angeja and others.

1203-06-26 – The Church of Sorães (Santa Catarina) is referenced in the privileges granted to the Monastery of Santa Cruz of Coimbra, confirmed by Pope Innocent III.

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

1518-08-15 – A charter is granted to Sorães (Santa Catarina) by King Manuel I, with the administration of the municipality being taken over from Mesas.

Rua da Igreja

Portugal, Aveiro, Vagos, Civil parish merger of Ponte de Vagos and Santa Catarina