



PARISH CHURCH

The little that remains of the original medieval church can be seen in the north face of the building. The distinctive arch over the side door is made up of three concentric arches, the lower two solid but the third composed of two mouldings with distinct plant designs. The arch is set high on prominent, bevelled bases. Also of note are a slit window which has been enlarged and renovated and some stones inscribed with the mason's marks.

The building was completely remodelled in the 18th and 19th centuries and now features a side chapel of the Sacred Heart with a moulded doorway coped with spirals and a shell design. The main chapel is unusual in that it is higher than the nave and there is an impressive bell tower flanking the main façade.

Inside the stone furnishings are of interest, in particular the baptismal font with an octagonal basin and the wash-basin from the old sacristy. Also worth noting are the ceiling panels and the altar pieces in baroque and neoclassical design.

According to tradition, the high altar, a notable work of gilded wood carving, was destined for the church of Saint Peter in Vila Real. The caravan of ox-carts on which it was being transported was held up in Mondim during a violent snow-storm. The local residents took advantage of these circumstances and set about acquiring it for Mondim. However, the great size of the altar called for significant alterations to the church. The orientation of the building was probably transposed during the construction of the present main chapel to accommodate it.

This church's rich heritage is due to the generosity of God's people throughout its history, but especially during the last couple of centuries.



OUR LADY OF PIETY CHAPEL

This was built in the last part of the 18th century and consecrated in 1778. It was originally located in what is now the cemetery but was moved to its present site in 1923 by Comendador (Sir) Alfredo Álvares de Carvalho, Mondim's great benefactor.

The plan of the chapel is a central part divided into eight with a prominent façade and an undulating gable. The doorway has a straight lintel, above which a niche houses a stone image of Our Lady of Piety, the chapel's patron saint. This building is distinguished by the originality of its design and the quality of its stone furnishings, namely the pulpit base and holy water basin.

Restored in 2007.

The magnificent granite stairway leading to the present cemetery was built by the benefactor António Cardoso to give access to the chapel. The chapel was built for the purpose of holding the final ceremony of the ancient Via Sacra, which is still held annually. The route of the Via Sacra was recently restored and features some of the original ancient stone crosses.



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Parish Church



The Lord Chapel



SAINT QUITÉRIA CHAPEL

This 18th century chapel was originally located in another public square close, it is believed, to the Mondim pillory post and the Saint Francis Chapel, both of which have unfortunately disappeared. In around 1917, public works led to its purchase at auction by Comendador (*Sir*) Alfredo Álvares de Carvalho, who relocated it alongside his own house, now the Town Hall. At this time the private chapel's services remained partially open to the public, who had access via the side door

The façade is unusual in this region due to its arched cornices on the coping and a niche above the doorway. Inside, there are three carved altar panels. One is Baroque and probably dates from the chapel's foundation. Another is in the Mannerist style, possibly originating from another church in the area and added during the chapel's move.

Restored in 2007

Saint Quitéria was customarily called upon to protect from bites from rabid dogs and headaches. According to legend she was martyred by beheading and then thrown into a lake, from which she emerged, carrying her head under her arm!



THE LORD CHAPEL

Designated Building of Public Interest

It's a temple of Roman structure in granite with baroque embellishment.

This chapel was built in the last part of the 16th century and retains its original overall size and signs of the original doorway. On the facing wall of the main chapel there are paint remains of frescoes bearing the date 1588 and portraying Saint Francis and Saint Christopher.

The chapel was modified in the 18th and 19th centuries. A sacristy was added and the main façade altered by the removal of the columned porch and the opening of a new doorway with a straight lintel.

Of notable interest in the main chapel are the 16th century tiles, *azulejos*, and the high altar piece carved in the Mannerist style. The nave contains two altar pieces with *rocaille* carvings and the ceiling has embossed painted wooden panels depicting Old Testament themes. Within the stone floor are twenty-four granite tombs with oak covers.

In the tombs lie members of the "Brotherhood of the Holy Sacrament and Passion of the Lord", commonly known as the "Brotherhood of the Lord". The origins of this order are lost in the mists of time, but probably date from the middle of the 16th century. These monks were charged with the task of serving the Lord and organising the religious ceremonies in Holy Week and Corpus Christi. A document dated 1710 refers to the brothers being buried in the Lord Chapel to the accompaniment of the Mondim Philharmonic.

This building would have served as a shelter for pilgrims on route to Santiago de Compostela.



SAINT SEBASTIAN CHAPEL

This was built in the 18th century according to a common pattern in this region. This style is characterised by a reduced overall size and a great sobering effect which is only broken by the regular placing of cornices on the corner points and the small circular spy holes in the main façade.

Its quiet rural setting and the nearby cross of St Sebastian (probably contemporary to the chapel) make a visit here a must!

The yearly festival to Saint Sebastian takes place on 20th January. An ancient tradition during the Eucharist involves the blessing of bread baked in the ovens of the houses closest to the chapel and its subsequent distribution among the believers. This ritual is linked to a miracle attributed to the martyr, in which he saved Portugal from the plague and the famine it provoked.

The famous pilgrimages called "*Clamores da Roda*" (*Cries of the Ring*) set out from this chapel at times of drought to pray, sing and invoke blessings on the hills, valleys and fields, for rain and good harvests.