

## History

The foundation of the Church of Saint Pelagius of Longa may date back to the 10th century, in homage to the young martyr Saint Pelagius (martyred in Córdoba in the year 925).

Located in lands marked by intense conflicts between Christians and Moors, it is likely to have suffered all the vicissitudes of war until finally, at the end of the 11th century, it became part of the extensive domain of Leomil. Its situation then stabilised, and its parish was probably re-established.

In the royal inquiries of 1220-1229, it appears mentioned as "Sancta Maria de Longa", in the Diocese of Lamego, indicating a Marian dedication, probably influenced by the monks of São Pedro das Águias. This connection may have arisen due to a possible legacy of part of the patronage of the church to that monastery by the founders' heirs.



Saint Pelagius

Later, in 1268, we have notice of the presentation *in solidum* of Father Lourenço Martins to the vicarage of Saint Pelagius of Longa. He was presented by the Canons of the Chapter of the Cathedral of Lamego and the monks of São Pedro das Águias, heirs and patrons. Father Martins was subsequently instituted and confirmed by the Bishop of Lamego, Dom Pedro Anes.

In truth, the cult of the Virgin Mary was never abandoned, and it is still possible to admire the venerable image of Saint Mary of Longa in the chancel, alongside that of the Martyr Saint Pelagius. By the time of the kingdom's parish census in 1321, during the reign of King Dinis, the parish of Saint Pelagius (São Paio) of Longa was mentioned as being taxed at 30 pounds.

In the Censual of the Cathedral of Lamego, dating from the first half of the 16th century, Longa is described as an Abbey, with its abbot alternately presented by the Chapter of the Cathedral of Lamego and the monks of the Monastery of São Pedro das Águias, followed by confirmation from the Bishop.

In the early 18th century, this parish retained the status of an Abbey of ordinary collation, with alternate presentation

by the Chapter of the Cathedral of Lamego and the Bernardine Friars of São Pedro das Águias. Due to disputes over the patronage of the Church of Longa, arising from this alternation in presentation, numerous legal proceedings took place between the 15th century and the mid-18th century, involving the Chapter of the Cathedral of Lamego and the monks of the Cistercian Order of São Pedro das Águias. These disputes were only resolved in the 1740s-1750s, in favour of the Canons of Lamego.

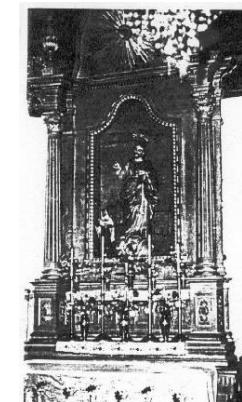


Parish Church of Saint Pelagius of Longa

## The Apogee of the Baroque

This church, of medieval origin, retains its 17th-century architecture and decoration in Mannerist, Joannine Baroque, and Neoclassical styles. The interior is highly scenic, thanks to the combination of Mannerist and Baroque elements that adorn it, including painted ceilings composed by panels depicting hagiological motifs and scenes from the lives of the Virgin and Christ, and rich Baroque Joannine woodcarving in the main altar, the collateral and side altars, and the woodwork covering the triumphal arch. These were crafted in the second quarter of the 18th century, with painting and gilding completed in 1766 by the

painter Gregório Coelho do Amaral, a resident of Paredes da Beira..



Ancient altarpiece of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

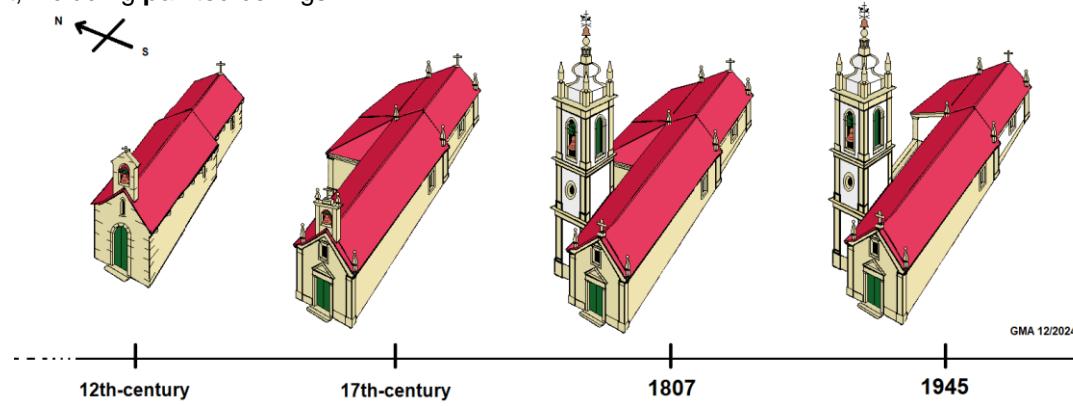
At the end of the 18th century, a Neoclassical altar dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was added (later dismantled in the 1970s, along with the altar of Saint Benedict from an ancient private chapel).

In 1807, a bell tower was built, becoming a defining feature of Longa's landscape and now standing as the tallest bell tower in the municipality of Tabuaço.



In 1950, the bell tower was equipped with a clock, Model A, from the watchmaking workshop Paget Francis (tower clockmakers from Morez/Jura, in France).

It was installed by Miguel Marques Henriques, Lda., from Albergaria-a-Velha, following a community subscription.



Evolution of the Parish Church of Longa

## Medieval Vestiges

From the medieval period, besides the ancient baptismal font, a consecration stone (reliquary stone) has recently been uncovered. It is thought to have been part of the church's original altar, featuring a concave profile on three sides. At its top, a compartment - known as a *loculus* or sepulchre - is carved to house saints' relics, likely enclosed in a wooden reliquary box (lipsanotheca). Such relics were necessary for the consecration of a church, with the altar stone resting upon them.



Consecration Stone



Baptismal Font

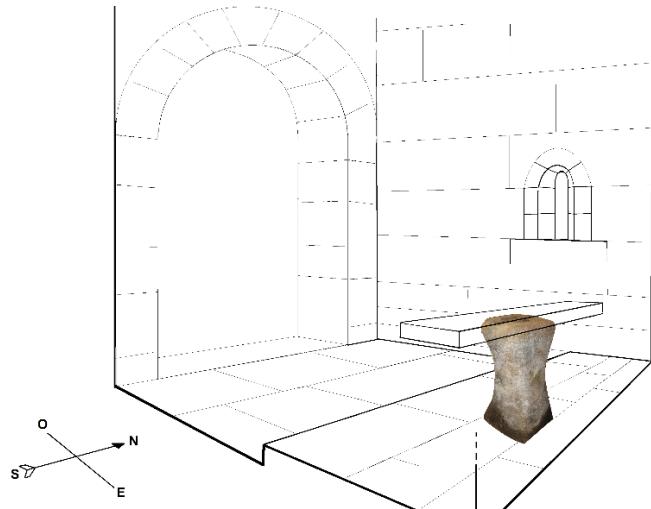


Details



Discover this historical and spiritual treasure

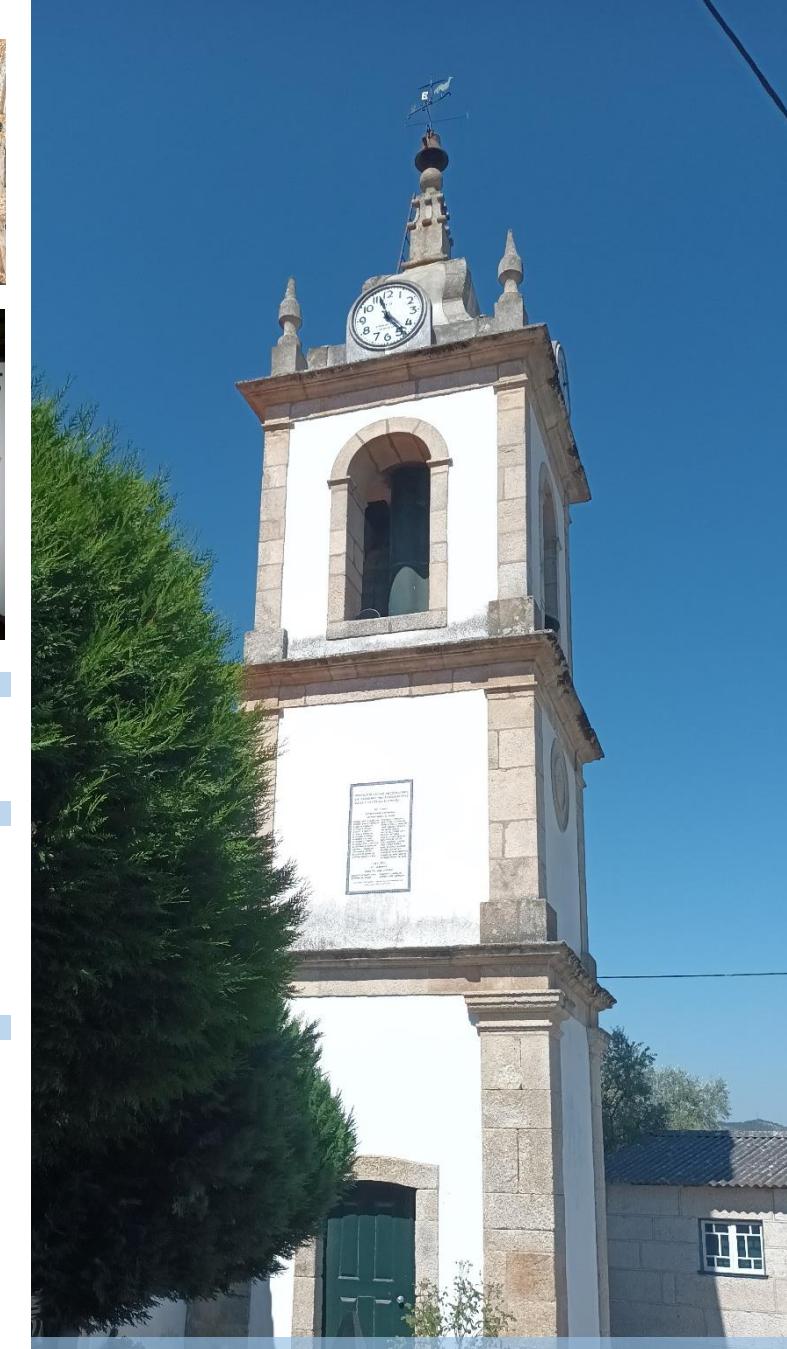
**Location:** Longa, Municipality of Tabuaço  
**Opening Hours:** Contact the Civil Parish Council of Longa  
**Contacts:** Phone: +351 254 535 200 | Email: [jfreguesialonga@gmail.com](mailto:jfreguesialonga@gmail.com)



Hypothetical Reconstruction: Chancel of the Church of Longa before 1220-1229



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# Parish Church of Longa

Where history, art, and faith meet