

OLD PARISH CHURCH OF ST XENXO OF PADRIÑÁN

This church was built in the early 16th century (1514) and in this same century it was affected by a fire due to the incursion of the pirate Francis Drake in Pontevedra's estuary. The importance that Sanxenxo had as the capital of the jurisdiction of A Lanzada, which was part of the province of Santiago when Galicia had 7 provinces back in the 18th century, justifies the continuous modifications of this temple, financed by Benedictines, Cistercians and the Saavedra family from Miraflores.

It consists of a single rectangular nave in four sections and covered by a wooden roof supported by two pointed ashlar arches. The chancel, narrower than the nave, is also rectangular with a pointed arch at the entrance and a star-shaped ribbed vault.



St Ginés of Arlés

Western façade. The most prominent element is the stone image of the Virgin and Child crowned by a scallop-shaped halo. Above there is a small rose window carved in stone. To the left rises the bell tower, whose construction, according to the inscription on its door began in 1700 with stone that was transported by sea from the quarries of Chancelas (Poio).

The north wall shows two coats of arms: that of the Abbot of A Armenteira (left) and that of the Posse de Faxín family (right).

On the northern façade there is a processional portal framed by a molded ogee arch with flamboyant decoration and an interesting inscription (16th century).

In 2016, after removing the altarpiece and the altar for renovations, a series of frescoes and remains of tombs over 500 years old were discovered in this chapel. It was also possible to confirm the existence of three tombstones with coats of arms belonging to the founding families of the church.



The Parish of Padriñán
 Area: 5.3 Km²
 Population: 4,010 inhabitants (2022)

The place name "Padriñán" derives from (village) *Patriniani, genitive form of *Patrinianus*, a name of Latin origin, derived from *Paternus*, referring to the ancient owner of the medieval town.

Galicia has over 3,770 parishes (666 in the province of Pontevedra), of which only eight have St Xenxo as their patron saint. St Xenxo or Genesius of Arlés was a martyr from Gaul whose cult must have spread in Galicia in the last centuries of the first millennium.

and largest church in the municipality and its architect was Joaquín Robles Echenique. It is characterized by having a hexagonal floor plan covered by a stepped pyramid-shaped roof. In the parish of St Xenxo of Padriñán there are also three manor houses (*Pazos in Galician*): Pazo de Miraflores, Pazo de Patiño, in the centre of Sanxenxo, and Pazo de Padriñán also named Pazo del Virrey.

Parish churches are the figurehead of a unique cultural heritage, born, therefore, of the territorial singularity where the links and relationships of man with space have developed over time.

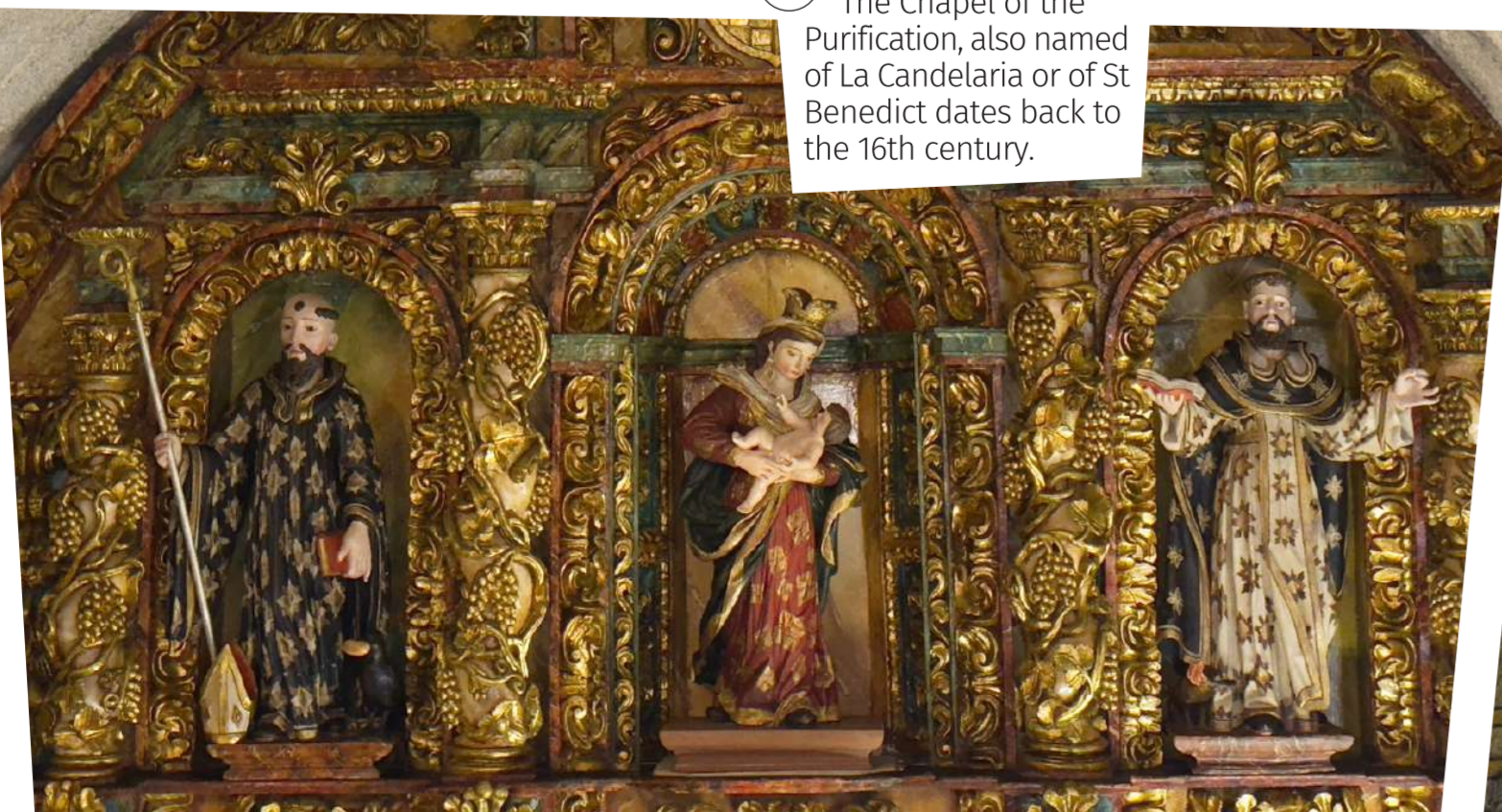
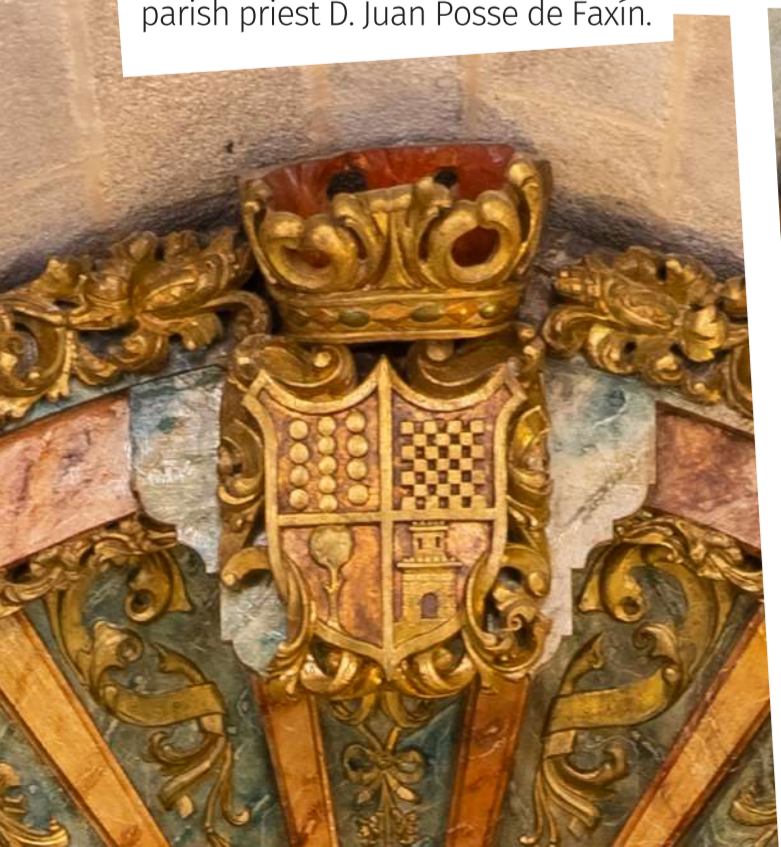
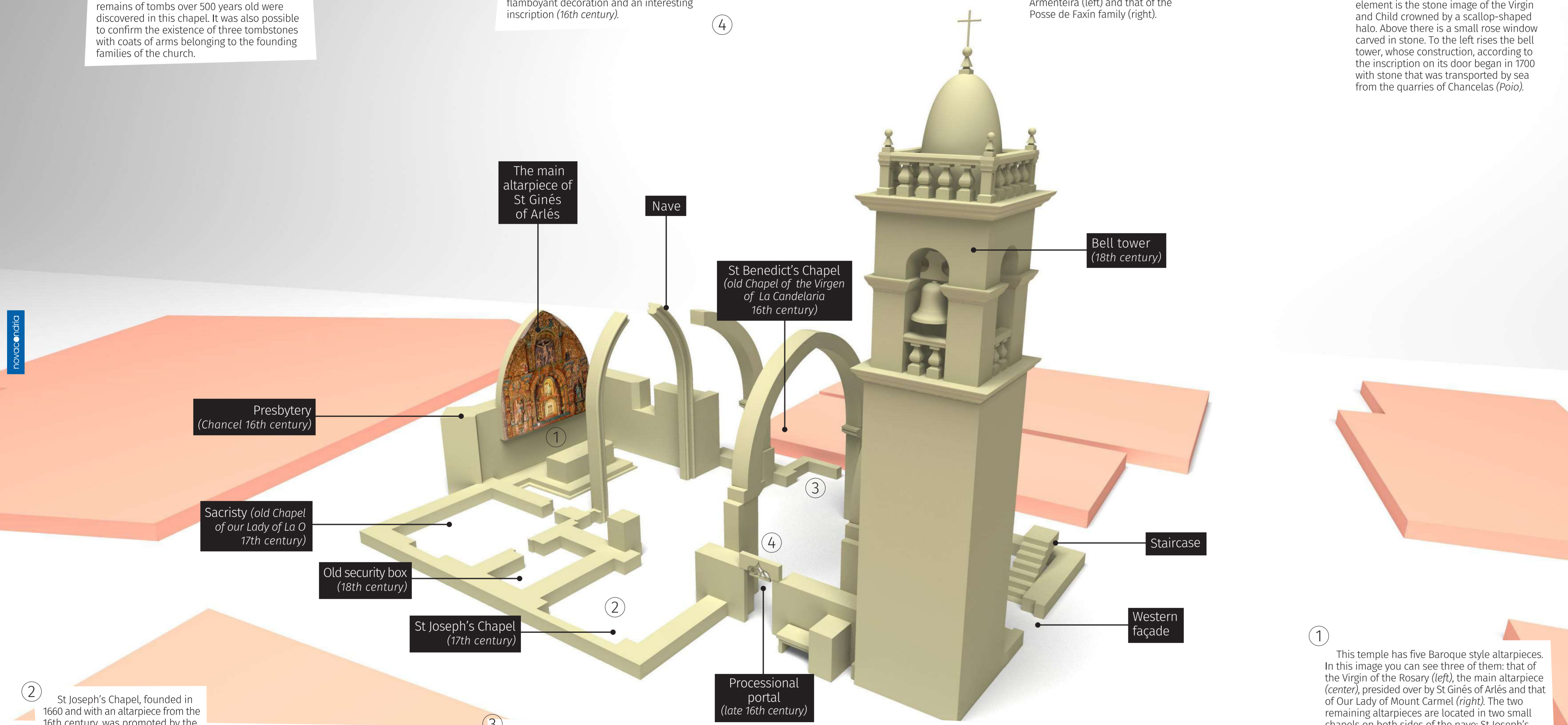
The parish is defined as a unit of ecclesiastical delimitation, which, throughout the Middle Ages and up to the present day, was consolidated as a basic cell of social relations in agriculture, a delimited space to which communal goods corresponded, a microcosm of rural life (with an annual schedule of festivals), an area of mutual cooperation and people's preferred place of belonging, over the village or home town. A parroquia en Galicia, pasado, presente e futuro. Xunta de Galicia, 2009.

① This temple has five Baroque style altarpieces. In this image you can see three of them: that of the Virgin of the Rosary (left), the main altarpiece (center), presided over by St Ginés of Arlés and that of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (right). The two remaining altarpieces are located in two small chapels on both sides of the nave: St Joseph's Chapel (north wall) and the Chapel of the Purification, also known as the Presentation of the Virgin of Candelaria or of St Benedict (south wall).

The Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ, according to the texts of the Gospels, are shown in the paintings of the arch and in the background of the chapel of Our Lady of Solitude (18th century).

③ The Chapel of the Purification, also named of La Candelaria or of St Benedict dates back to the 16th century.

② St Joseph's Chapel, founded in 1660 and with an altarpiece from the 16th century, was promoted by the parish priest D. Juan Posse de Faxín.



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