

# SANTA BAIA DE MONDARIZ CHURCH

This is a building that surpasses the prototypical parish church in terms of design, size and ornamental richness. It was built in 1711 and has a Latin cross floor plan. Inside, the ribbed vaulting that decorates the main nave, divided into sections by means of transverse arches, stands out. The lateral chapels were covered with barrel vaults, as was the apse, although the latter is decorated with a coffered ceiling.

Inside, there are three neoclassical altarpieces and one Gothic altarpiece, the most outstanding of which is the Baroque-style high altar, carved in 1774 and endowed with great dynamism. It is presided over by the coat of arms of the Marquises of Mos, who held the benefice of presentation of this parish. The work was paid for by the religious community and the abbot of the parish; the author was the painter Rodrigo Rouco y San Román, a resident of Lavadores.

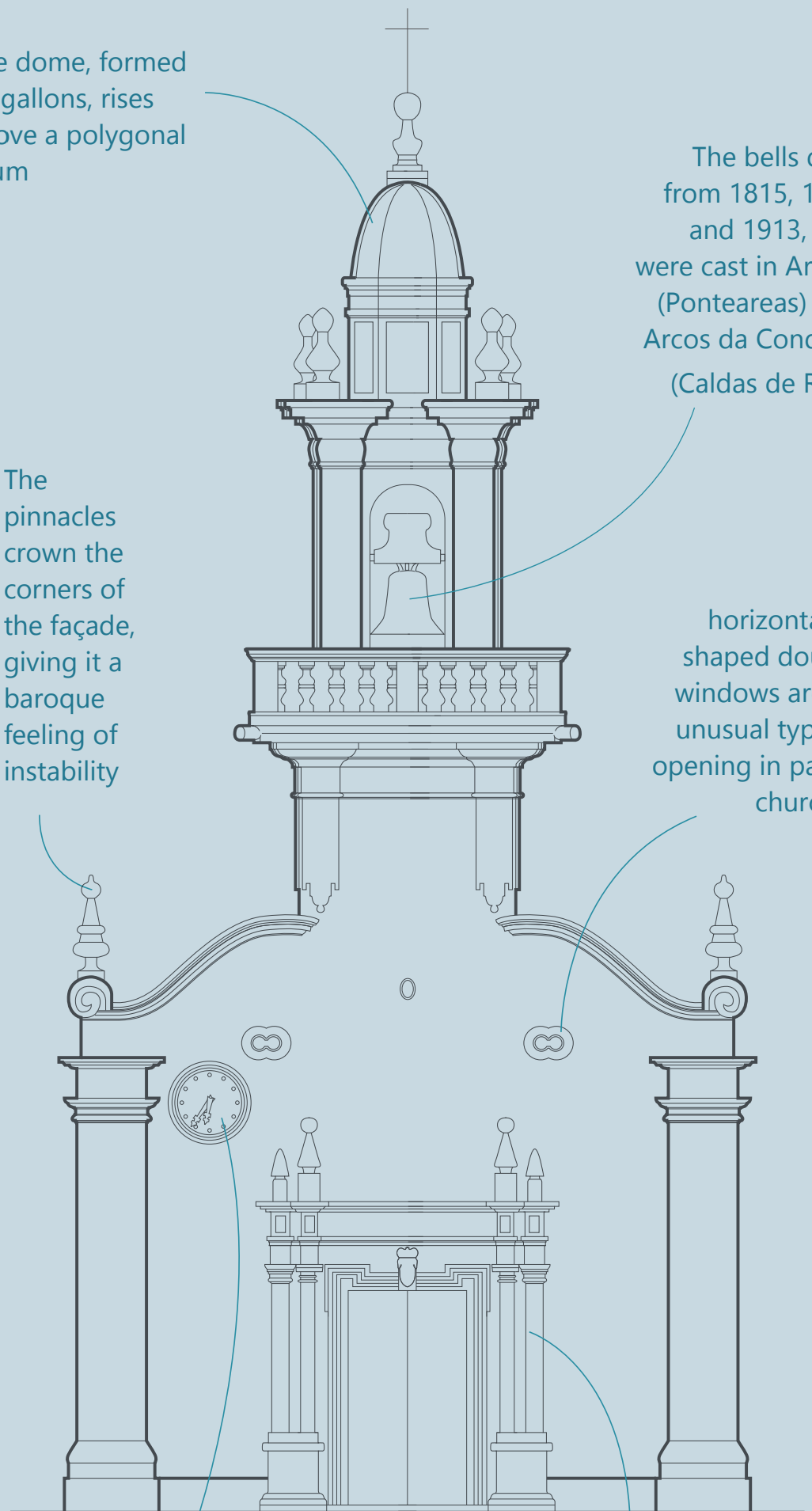
In the chapel on the right-hand side there is a medieval sarcophagus dated 1115 which houses the mortal remains of Eusebio, the first abbot of the parish. The tomb, carved in granite, is covered by a double stola lid.

The dome, formed by gallons, rises above a polygonal drum

The bells date from 1815, 1887 and 1913, and were cast in Arcos (Ponteareas) and Arcos da Condesa (Caldas de Reis)

The pinnacles crown the corners of the façade, giving it a baroque feeling of instability

The horizontal 8-shaped double windows are an unusual type of opening in parish churches



The clock, installed in the first third of the 20th century, was made by the Basque clockmaker Lecea y Murua, from Álava

The doorway is flanked by Tuscan pilasters and columns. In the centre keystone, there is an acanthus leaf



Church in the early 20th century  
Foto Pacheco

## Etymology and history

From the Greek Eulalía 'eloquent, who speaks well'. In Galician there were several variants of this name that survive in parish titles and surnames: Santalla, Santabaia or Santoalla. Santa Baia (3rd-4th centuries) was martyred in Mérida or in Barcelona, as the two cities disputed her origin; she is the same person, as they coincide in the legend, age and type of martyrdom. In any case, she is the saint with the oldest cult in the Iberian Peninsula.

