

## 2. CERAMIC ALTARPIECE LA MAR STREET SAINT VINCENT FERRER ROUTE



### GENERAL ROUTE PLAN

1. Birthplace El *pouet*
2. Ceramic Altarpiece La Mar Street
3. Convent of Preachers
4. Statue of Saint Vincent Ferrer in Tetuan Square
5. Statue of Saint Vincent Ferrer on Pont del Real
6. Parish Church of Sant Esteve
7. Dormitories
8. Santa Mònica Square
9. Cathedral, chapel and throne
10. Miracle del Mocadoret Square
11. Church of Corpus Christi
12. Colegio Imperial Niños Huérfanos
13. Basilica of Saint Vincent Ferrer



Near to where tradition dictates that the event took place, this Valencian ceramic altarpiece commemorates the so-called *Miracle del salser*. In 1359, spice merchant Miquel Garrigues lived in the same street as the Ferrer family. He had a son who suffered from malignant ulcers on the neck, which were cured by another child, Vincent. This is one of the origins of popular devotion in València for his various *miracles* in Valencian, represented by children under 15 years old at the 15 altars in the street during the weekend of his festivity: the Monday after the Second Sunday of Easter.

These representations of The Miracles (or *Milacres*) of Saint Vincent Ferrer are so significant that on 10 April 2015, the Regional Government declared them to be of intangible cultural interest. According to the decree: “The representation of the miracles or *milacres* of Saint Vincent Ferrer are a jewel of Spanish theatre and, in view of their survival over many centuries and the number of pieces written, they are one of the most significant manifestations of Valencian theatre. They are children’s plays staged in the streets with religious-themed sets known as the altars of Saint Vincent.

The miracles of Saint Vincent Ferrer are of unequivocal heritage value. They are a living, popular expression of a people, originating from the locals and perfected over time as an artistic, cultural, devotional and satirical manifestation, and as a unique festive expression. In themselves they have a high level of aesthetic quality, with a conceptual, symbolic and popular expression structure that has determined their continuity and evolution, in addition to fostering and promoting the Valencian language”.

As for their age, the decree states that: “1461 is the traditionally accepted date, according to documented news, of the first altar on what was then La Mar road, now a street with the same name, erected by Joan Garrigues. It originally consisted of an image of the saint and an inscription telling of the miraculous event involving Saint Vincent Ferrer as a child, for the public to read, adding simple lights to complete the structure. Elements were added over time — flowers, precious fabrics and figures— representing the well-known miracles. What was first something personal gradually became public and the key-holders of an incipient Vincentine corporation in the neighbourhood modified the structure and added verses. This practice extended through the streets of València despite protests from residents of La Mar Street, who considered this form of devotion to be exclusively theirs”.

At that time, a series of events also took place to commemorate the figure of the Dominican brother, such as a floral offering at his birthplace, a procession to visit sites related to Saint Vincent, ending at the Church of San Esteban, where he was baptised. Papier-mâché sculptures of Saint Vincent are displayed around its baptismal font during those days, representing the people who attended his baptism, dressed in 15th-century attire. Of all these events, raising and lowering the saint’s image at each altar is one of the most emotional moments.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Address:** 37 La Mar Street.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

**Access:** pedestrian street, no steps.

**Parking:** PRM at 51 La Mar Street.