

St James's Parsonage

History...

A parsonage including a dwelling-house and agricultural buildings probably existed on this site as early as the Middle Ages. For a parsonage in Dachau is first mentioned in 1315. In those days, parsons were also farmers.

275 years later, Parson Laucher asked his sovereign, Duke Wilhelm V, for 5,000 building stones to restore the house and outbuildings. Following numerous renovations over the centuries, the 19th-century parson Simon Härtl and his successor, Caspar Silner, tirelessly attempted to obtain a new building, as the wretched parsonage building now contains only one tiny habitable room serving as both parlour and bedroom...

A new building was finally constructed in 1857. However, the archiepiscopal ordinariate demanded that *the maidservants' chambers no longer be on the second floor, where the curates live, but be moved to the ground floor.*

Just over a century later, the parsonage no longer met the requirements of the times and in 1973 had to make way for a modern parish centre. The new parsonage was designed by the architect Josef Wiedemann, who in the 1960s had already designed the Chapel of the Agony of Christ and the Carmelite nunnery on the concentration camp memorial site.



The old "Parsonage": front door in Pfarrstrasse, around 1950

... and a story

Until the new building was erected in the 19th century, the Dachau parsonage, besides the parson's house, included barns and stables and a farm of at times more than 17 acres of fields and pastures. It was also customary for the parson to keep the breeding bull for the parish. In exchange, he was paid *Käsgeld* (cheese money) by the townspeople. However, the mid-17th century Dachau parson Markus Weber wanted to keep the animal only from St George's Day (23 April) to Michaelmas (29 September). After that it was to be slaughtered. Since no agreement was reached, Georg Huber, the owner of the "Gensstallerbräu" brewery, took over the keeping of the breeding bull. He received instructions *to look after the good bull at all times.*



View of the parsonage garden from Wienerstrasse, around 1950

The picturesque old town of Dachau with its 1200-year history features many sites of historical interest. Special buildings of prominence in the townscape are marked by these historical plaques.

Dachau historical plaques are a joint project by the town of Dachau and the Dachau District Museum.

