



# KUNISSERRY VALIARATTU

## POOKULANGARA BHAGAWATHY TEMPLE



LOCATION

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Panchayath/<br>Municipality/<br>Corporation | Kunissery |
| District                                    | Palakkad  |



ACCESSIBILITY

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Nearest Town/<br>Landmark/ Junction | Kunissery post office –700 m   |
| Nearest Bus station                 | Kunissery bus stop –900 m  |
| Nearest Railway<br>station          | Kollengode Railway station – 15 km   |
| Nearest Airport                     | Coimbatore International Airport- 90km<br>Cochin International Airport- 92km |



CONTACT

Pookulangara Bhagavathy Temple  
Erimayoor  
Kunisseri  
Palakkad  
Kerala - 678 681



TIME

| DATES                             |
|-----------------------------------|
| May/June (Edavam ,Punartham Star) |

| FREQUENCY        |
|------------------|
| Once in 12 years |

| DURATION |
|----------|
| 1 day    |



### ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Pookulangara Bhagavathy Temple structure includes *sreekovil* with *mukha mandapam*, sub-shrines, *namaskara mandapam*, *chuttambalam* with *agramandapam*. *Navagrahas* are carved on the ceiling of the *agramandapam*. According to the legends, during the military invasions of Zamorin of Calicut, many places of Palakkad came to be under his rule. While the Zamorin's army came to capture Kunissery desam, all the men folk of Kunisesry courageously fought with them, but succumbed to death.

The helpless womenfolk had prayed to the Pookulangara Bhagawathy who in turn retaliated fiercely and saved her 'children' from disgrace. The benevolent Goddess heard their prayers and advised them to jump into the warfront with brooms and winnows in hand. When they ran to fight the Zamorin's army, they saw Goddess Durga in her fierce form in each woman, and retreated quickly. On hearing this incident, the Zamorin Raja consulted his astrologers and he was informed that the Raja has earned the wrath of Kunissery Bhagavathy for his wrong deeds. The King soon reached the abode of Pookkulangara Bhagavathy and prayed for forgiveness. The Zamorin also bestowed many of his Kingly symbols to the Goddess and became an ardent devotee of Her.

The king arranged around five hundred soldiers(*Nair pada*) from Kolakanadu for the protection of orphaned ladies according to the order from Pookkulangara Bhagavathy . These soldiers asked the permission to participate in the *mamangam* festival which they used to attend every year at Thirunavaya on the banks of Bharathapuzha. The king ordered to conduct a similar mamamgam during Malayalam month of *meenam* in *punartham* star, the birthday of Devi. This incident gave birth to *Kummatti maholsavam* which is celebrated every year. People from three *deshams* participate soulfully in the Kummatti maholsavam.



**RELEVANCE-**  
(Local / National /  
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATED**

Approximately 6000



## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Aarattu  
Devi's Procession  
Special poojas

## DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

*Valia arattu* is celebrated in the Malayalam month of *Edavam* in the *punaratham* star once in 12 years. People from Kunisery pallavoor desham participate actively in this festival. People of other religious belives also join to make this festival a grand success. It is belived that on the same day the Godess moves eastwards to get darshanam of the Pallavoorappan. Thripallavoorappan welcomes Devi with dignity at Painatty and gifts her *pooja* materials after *aarattu*. This is known as *Valiaratt*.

The procession of Devi (*ezhunallath*) is backed by vadya melam (music made by various percussion instruments). People from various places participate to witness this. Procession is followed by *annadanam* (feast) to the devotees. The holy *aarattu* coincides with *Dusshera*.The next festival celebration is scheduled on 2023.

