



# MANAPULLIKAVU VELA

## SREE MANAPPULLY BHAGAVATHY TEMPLE



### LOCATION

Panchayat/  
Municipality/  
Corporation

Palakkad Municipality

District

Palakkad



### ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction

Palakkad Fort - 1.9 Km

Nearest Bus station

Manapullikavu Bus Stop – 210 m

Nearest Railway station

Palakkad Railway Station – 4 Km

Nearest Airport

Coimbatore International Airport –61 Km



## CONTACT

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 Palakkad ,  
 Kerala : 678013  
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## TIME

### DATES

February-March

### FREQUENCY

Annual

### DURATION

7 Days

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

A saintly Brahmin once prayed and perfected the Manappully Bhagavathy, so the folklore goes. He did the prayers in his kitchen which is also known as the madappalli. That must be in course of time and usage, become *Manappulli* . This Brahmins house was part of the *Yagakkara* where *Agnihotra yagas* were performed. This in turn must have changed to become *Yakkara* the present name. It is presumed that the place where this temple is situated derived its name from this.

The temple mythology is that once, Neelan, an Asura was giving lot of disturbances to the people of this area. People complained about his miseries and menace to Parasuraman and he advised to take up the matter with Lord Paramasiva. Paramasiva by incarnation took the form of Bhadrakali and killed Neelan. After this, Bhadrakali became to be worshipped as Manappulli Sree Bhadrakali Amman. She was born out of the sacred Jada of Lord Shiva during Dakshayaga. Shree Manappulli Bhagavathi is black in color, with four hands, each one having *Soolam*, *Kapalam*, *gadkam* and *khedam*. She is with three eyes, four big teeth, with beautiful dress, several ornaments, in ghost vahana very bright and shining and fearful in appearance. She is well known to satisfy the desires of the devotees. It is said that the Goddess will be there whenever any devotee calls with real devotion. This deity is a very powerful deity believed to shower prosperity, to ward off miseries, fulfill all desires, protect from all evils of her true devotees.



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

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE  
 PARTICIPATED**

Approximately 10000

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Kodiyettam*  
*Chand Abhishekam*  
*Vedikettu (kadina)*  
*Velichappadu*  
*Oottu*  
*Deeparathana*  
*Panchavadyam*  
*Tradional dance forms*

## DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

The festival is celebrated between last week of February and first week of March based on the Malayalam Calendar year. The celebration starts with *Kodiyettam* (flag hoisting on a bamboo pole) which declares the *Vela*(Festival) has started. After the *Kodiyettam*, a week full of pooja ceremonies and evenings with colourful cultural programmes are organized by the 'Vela Committee' (Festival Committee) which all ends with the grand day 'Manapullikavu Vela'. Lots of devotees from various parts of Kerala and other southern states of India come for worshipping Bhagavathy on this auspicious day. The Vela day starts early with poojas to the Bhagavathy continuing with all day poojas. The *Chaandh Abishekam*, one of the important pooja during the day attracts flocks of devotees. 'Vedikettu' (Firework) is also an important attractive element of the festival which is organized in the evening around 9 PM and early morning by 4 AM. The Vela day is declared as Local Holiday which shows the importance of the festival. Manapullikavu Vela consists small velas from other desams. Velas from West Yakkara, Vadakkanthara, Vennakkara, Koppam are some of them. These small velas come together to make the final show. Plenty of chariots (bull carts and other motorised vehicles) take part in Manapullykavu Vela.

It is believed that the sword used by Mother Bhagavathi to defeat and destroy the demons is still the float tank. During the Vela festival, an event of Mother Bhagavathi taking out the sword from the Tank called *Velichapadu* is celebrated. A devotee possessed with the influence of Mother Bhagavathi dives into the tank, bring the sword and place it in the shrine of Mother for *pujas*. Feeding of the devotees also takes place on this day called Vela Oottu. During this festival, 15 elephants stand in a line with playing of *Pancha Vadyam*, *Pandi* and *Panjari Melas*. Mother Manapulli Bhavathi with her dark complexion is facing north. She is holding trident, skull, sword and armour in her four hands. She is in her best attire wearing jewels. She has the third eye on the forehead as Lord Shiva and four sharp long teeth. Those subjected to injustice pray to Her for relief. It is said that Her long teeth represent four Vedas. .

Every day there are three main *poojas* to the deity. One can hear the bursting of *Vedi (Kathina)* at the time of Deeparadhana (aarathi) every day on three occasions. The sound is heard for about two to three kilometers and everyone is mentally reminded of the *poojas* at the temple as a constant and ever living Force. .

The temple processions are conducted generally with about seventeen elephants and the main deity with full flower decoration and ornaments will be taken. Manapulli vela festival is famous in this temple during which time firework displays, *panchavadya* performances, *Ootam thullal*, *Kathakali* dances, and various cultural arts are performed. *Nithya Seva* to the deity is performed as per stipulated schedule which is displayed near the temple office counter.

