

ANNUAL FEAST OF OUR LADY OF PURIFICATION

OUR LADY OF PURIFICATION CHURCH



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Kollam Corporation

District

Kollam



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Thangassery Town

Nearest Bus station

Kollam Bus Stop-5Km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Kollam Railway Station – 5.5 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport- 70 Km



CONTACT

Our Lady of Purification church,
Kollam-691 006
Phone : +91 - 0474- 2746237 (Church)



TIME

DATES

June 26-July 3; Annual;

FREQUENCY

Yearly

DURATION

9 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Our Lady Purification Church Popularly known as Kollam Port Church is one of the oldest church in Kerala. It is believed to be established in AD.53. It is the oldest continuous parish in India. Also it is believed to be one among the seven and a half churches founded by the Apostle St. Thomas, Who was One of the Apostles of Jesus Christ. Because of sea erosion, the church was reconstructed thrice. In 1329, kollam was declared as the first diocese in India by the Vatican. During this Era, there was a church named kollam church. Later on several other churches were built by the Portuguese in the same vicinity, as a result of which kollam church was renamed a s “port kollam Church “. It is very famous among devotees as it has the holy relic of Saint Thomas. The legend behind this festival is that according to the Old Testament, a mother would take her son 40 days after his birth to the Temple to present herself to be purified and to offer the child to God. This was a precept that every good Israelite mother observed. It was moreover a beautiful law that reflected the holiness of God. When Jesus was a new born baby Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem Temple of God (devalayam) with newly born Jesus and submitted Him in front of God as an offering. A child is born amid the dangers that accompany every gestation. But finally he is born. As soon as the mother recovers enough to travel; she takes the child and goes to the Temple. She goes and presents her child to God because He was the one who created him so he might be offered to God and live for Him. The Old Law made this presentation obligatory. To commemorate this event here feast is conducted every year. Hence the Holy Mother here also known as Kanikka Mathavu.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

National



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approx.50000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Samoohabali
Dhyanam
Special Prayers
Novena
Divyabali
Spiritual discourses
Procession
Kanikka Samarppanam*

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The feast of Our Lady of Purification church, held every year during the January-February month, attracts thousands of devotees irrespective of their faith and religion. Starting with a flag hoisting ceremony to mark the beginning of the festival, Church is decorated with colourful lights and illuminations that time. Religious discourses and special prayers were takes place during the festive days. There will be a grand procession on February 1 covering major part of town attracts thousands of people. On February 2, thousand of woman with their newly born babies (below 2 years) comes to the church and submitted before Lord Mary as an offering. The Mother here also known as Kanikka mathavu.

