

ANNUAL FEAST OF ST. THOMAS

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 – 5.5Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport- 70Km



CONTACT

Our Lady of Purification church,
Kollam-691 006
Phone : +91-474 - 2746237 (Church)



TIME

DATES

June 26-July 3; Annual;

FREQUENCY

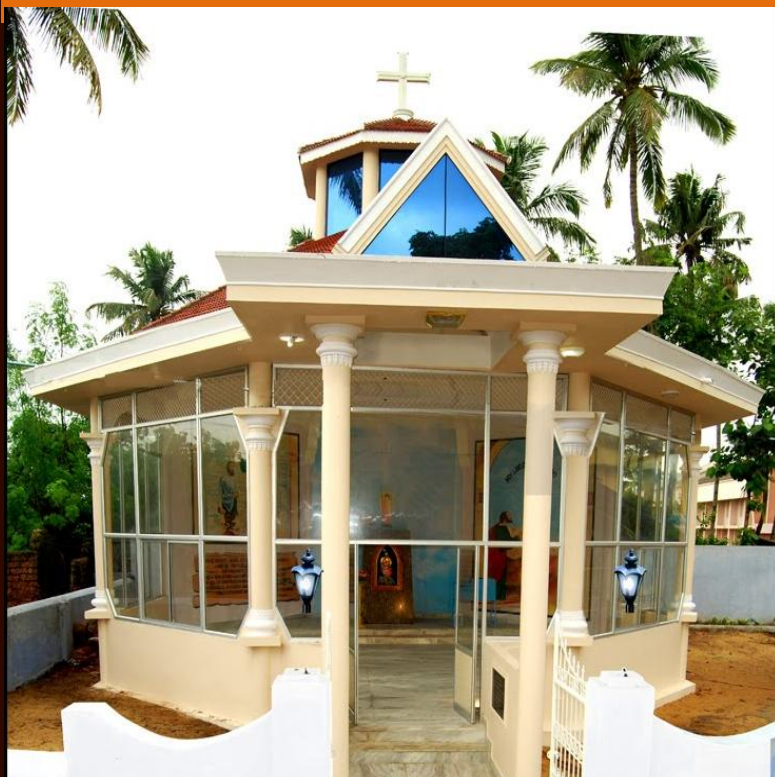
Yearly

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 as a "port Kollam Church ". It is very famous among devotees as it has the holy relic of Saint Thomas. The annual fest is conducted to commemorate St. Thomas. St. Thomas was born a Jew and was called to be one of the twelve Apostles. He is best known for being the one disciple who wanted proof of Jesus' resurrection. His birth and death dates are unknown, but his feast day is celebrated July 3. Catholic Feast days are days set aside to remember important people who lived extraordinary lives. Most saints and holy people have specially designated feast days. On those days we remember these holy men and women in a special way.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

National



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approx. 40000-50000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Flag Hoisting
Samoohabali
Dhyanam
Special Prayers
Seminars
Novena
Divyabali
Spiritual Discourses
Procession*

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

There will be a flag hoisting ceremony marking the beginning of the festival. Church is beautifully 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 a day before the feast ends, covering the major part of the town. This feast attracts thousands of devotees every year.

