

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF IMMACULATE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH(PULLICHIRA CHURCH)



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Mayyanad Grama Panchayath

District

Kollam



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

PulichiraTown

Nearest Bus station

Mayyanad Bus Stop-1.6 Km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Mayyanad Railway Station- 3 Km
Kollam Railway Station – 12 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport- 65 Km



CONTACT

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TIME

DATES

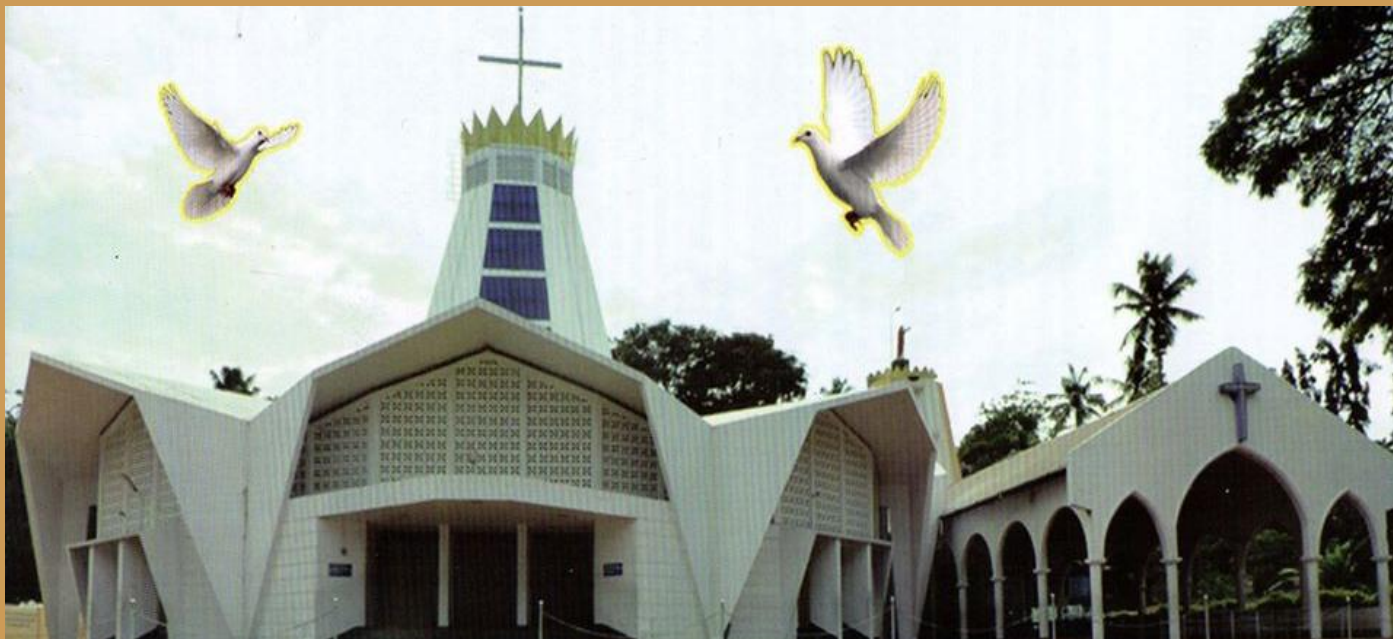
Second and third week of December(10th to
21st dec)

FREQUENCY

Yearly

DURATION

10 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The Church is situated in the scenic surroundings on the banks of Pullichira lake in Mayyanad Panchayath. It is the most ancient diocese of Kollam. Pullichira's Immaculate Conception Church has a statue of Our Lady that washed ashore in 1520. The history of the church dates back to 16th century AD. The original church was built by the Portuguese in 1572. There is an interesting story behind how the Immaculate Conception Church was built in Pullichira. A Portuguese ship was caught amidst a raging storm in the Arabian Sea. The sailors feared that the heavily loaded ship would be easier to sink to the bottoms of the sea so they decided to throw some heavy goods overboard to lighten the ship. The prayer room of the ship held the sacred idol of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception. Unwillingly the sailors decided to pack the sacred image in a box to be tipped into the sea. Miraculously, as soon as the box touched the turbulent waters, the storm ceased and the sea calmed down. The overjoyed sailors believed that Our Lady had rescued them from a shipwreck and a watery grave. They rejoiced and sang in praise of Her and the Almighty. With tears of joy the sailors vowed to build a church in the name of Immaculate Conception in the land, the box with the sacred idol had touched. Next day, the beautifully sculpted, wooden idol was brought to Pullichira lake. The devotees sanctified the holy idol in their place of worship. Interestingly, whenever he offered the prayers, the priest used to have revelations. During one of such occasions it was revealed to him that Mother Mary's idol should face east. This is the reason why the local devotees praise her in their regional language as "*Kizhaku Nokki Amma* or *Mala Nokki Amma*". The community of believers in Pullichira was transformed into a Parish in A.D. 1627. In 1974, a new church was built here, preserving the altar. The church was declared a Marian pilgrimage shrine in 2004.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED**

Approx.50000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

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

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The feast of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception church, held every year during the second and third week of December, 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. This is a 10 day long festival and during the last three days of the feast, the miraculous statue of Mother Mary is brought down from her position above the alter and taken around the church in a procession attracts thousands of people

