



FEAST OF SAINT RAPHAEL

ST. ANTHONY'S FORANE CHURCH, OLLUR



LOCATION

Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation

Thrissur Municipality

District

Thrissur



ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Thrissur – 5.7 km

Nearest Bus station

Thrissur K S R T C Stand – 5.2 km

Nearest Railway
station

Thrissur Railway Station – 5.1 km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 45 km



CONTACT

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Ollur - 680306

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Website: www.syromalabarchurch.in/Parish/Trichur Archeparchy,
www.ollurchurchlive.blogspot.in



TIME

DATES

October

FREQUENCY

Annually

DURATION

10 days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The St. Anthony's Forane Church, Ollur, was built by the resident christian families of Ollur under the leadership of *Chiramel Chakoru Palu*, a resident of Ollur, who got the permission from the Raja of Cochin. The foundation stone of the church was laid by Rev. *Marottical Poulouse*. The church was built in typical *Kerala Vaastushilpa* architectural style in the period 1883-1893. The Ollur Forane church is one of the best models of Christian architecture in India. The Ollur church is one of the wealthiest in the whole of Kerala.

Raphael is the name of an archangel of Christianity who is one of three angels listed by name in the Bible. The Roman Catholic Church assigns the feast of Saint Raphael to October 24. He stands in the choir of archangels and is one of the seven angels who stand before the Throne of God. His name is known in the Bible where he, in the book of Tobit, is the traveling companion of the Tobias, a young man. The Church calls on him as the angel of love, patron of medical doctors and of travelers.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED

Approximately 1000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Flag Hoisting Ceremony
Vala (Bangle) procession

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The festival starts with the hoisting of the ceremonial flag on October 15 to mark the beginning of the celebrations in the church compound. The main attraction of the festival is the *Vala* (Bangle) procession which is coming from the six zones of Ollur parish on October 23. These *Valas* will conclude at the foot of the rock-cross of the church. The processions are very attractive by glittering chariot, *muthukkudas* (multi coloured silk umbrellas), many types of *vadyams* and *melams* and followed by firework displays in the church grounds. The main part of the festival is the main procession carrying the statues of the four angels, Saint Raphael, Saint Michael, Saint Gabriel, and the Guardian Angel, in the *Roopakoodu* (an intricately decorated support or surround). Formerly accompanied by *thullal* (popularly known as devil dancing), this aspect of the festival has in more recent years been suppressed by ecclesiastical order.

