



THIRUNAL FATHIMA MATHA CHURCH VELLATTANJUR



LOCATION

Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation

Velur Grama Panchayat

District

Thrissur



ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Velur – 2.8 km

Nearest Bus station

Kunnamkulam Bus Stand – 13.8 km

Nearest Railway
station

Guruvayur Railway Station – 17.6 km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 73.6 km



CONTACT

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TIME

DATES

January

FREQUENCY

Annually

DURATION

3 days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The long awaited expectations of the faithful people of *Vellattanjur*, the first church was built in 1946 and in the same year 12th February Rt.Rev.Dr.*George Alappat*, Bishop of Thrissur blessed and named the church as the church of Our Lady of *Fathima*. During the year 1963, Rev.Fr.*Joseph Thekkakara* Asst. Vicar of *Velur* Parish took initial steps to convert this church into the Parish. After one year or in other words the need of the time, on 5th August 1964 Rt.Rev.Dr. *George Alappat*, Bishop of Thrissur constituted this church also as a parish merging the whole area of *Vellattanjur*, *Puliyannur* and western part of the *Thayyur*. After some years *Puliyannur* is attached to the *Thandilam* Parish. On 10th September 1964, Rev.Fr.*Antony Thekkiniyath* took charge as the first vicar of this parish. The Present presbytery of this parish was built in 1968 by Rt.Fr.*Chacko Parayil* and it was blessed by Rt.Dr.*George Alappat*, Bishop of Thrissur. This church was renovated in the period of 1977-1979 by Rev.Fr. *Bernard Thattil* was the Parish Priest. On 13th October 1979 Rt.Rev.Dr. *Mar Joseph Kundukulam*, Bishop of Thrissur, *cosecrated* the church. When Rev.Fr.*Johnson Ainikkal* was the Parish Priest, a Carmelite Convent established in 1982 which helps the Parish in its various pastoral activities, it was Fr. *John Kuttikat* donated the land for the Carmelite Convent who was the first priest from this parish and he was ordained on 27th December 1937. The parish has two Chapels dedicated to *St.Sebastian* in the west and *St.Francis Xavier* in the south. The Parish owns a spacious parish hall built as the Diamond Jubilee Souvenir of the parish in 2006 by Rev.Fr. *Jaison Marokey* and blessed by Rt.Rev.Dr.*Jacob Thoomkuzhy*, Arch Bishop of Thrissur. The main feast of the parish is that of our Lady of *Fathima* and is solemnly celebrated on 13th October every year with help of voluntary sponsors. Now this Parish comprises 310 families with a population of 1400 faithfuls and being led by Rev.Fr.*Anto Koola*. The *Thirunal* is conducted so as to commemorate *St. Sebastianose* who was killed by the order of the king.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 100

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Kodiyettam
Vishudha Kurubana
Ladeenju
Novena
Niyogam
Vedapadom
Pattu Kurubana
Thirunal Sandesham
Cultural programs
Fireworks

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

The *Thirunal* festival starts with *Kodiyettam* (Flag Hoisting of the festival). This is conducted so as to represent the starting of the festival. *Vishudha Kurubana* will be held as a part of the festival. The eleven days festival include *Vishudha kurubana*, *Ladeenju*, *Novena*, the usual prayers etc. A main event during the festival is *Niyogam* by new priests and Vicars. On Sundays during the festival *Vedapadom* (Classes on Bible) and *Kurubana* will be held additionally. On the final day of *Thirunal* Festival, *Vishudha Kurubana* will be held which is followed by the special *Pattu Kurubana* (prayer with Christian songs). Then there will be *Thirunal Sandesham* by the priest of the church. In the evening of the final day's festival, there will be cultural programs held by the *Kudumbakoottayma*(A group of devotee families). Festival ends with fireworks in the night.

