



# THIRUVACHANA MASACHARANAM ST THOMAS CHURCH PALAYOOR



Panchayath/  
Municipality/  
Corporation

Chavakkad Municipality

District

Thrissur

Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction

Palayur – 600m

Nearest Bus station

Guruvayur K S R T C Stand – 2.1 km

Nearest Railway  
station

Guruvayur Railway Station – 3.4 km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 78.3 km



ACCESSIBILITY

St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Church,  
Palayur Rd, Palayoor,  
Thrissur, Kerala – 680506  
Ph No: 0487 255 6978



CONTACT



TIME

DATES

November – December

FREQUENCY

Annually

DURATION

7 days



### ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Historical legend records that when St. Thomas landed at *Palayur*, he witnessed the sight of Hindu Brahmins, after their ablutions in a local tank, offering prayers by chanting mantras (the Vedic tradition of India for spiritual transformation) hymns to god in the form of *Argyam* or *Tharpanam* (water held in the palms) of water to the Sun god, a practice also said to be followed in *Harappan* and Persian cultures. Amused by the sight of water being thrown up by the Brahmins, from the palms of their hands, which was falling back, he challenged the Brahmins stating that the water they were offering was not being accepted by the Sun god as it was falling back into the tank. He made a deal with them stating that his God would accept the offer of water if he threw it up in the same way as they did, but water would not fall back. If he proved this then his God was superior and the Brahmins would have to embrace Christianity. He performed this miracle (summoned the Holy Trinity, completed the sign of the Cross and threw water held in his palms up into the air, which remained still in the air at a height) and with this miracle he converted a number of Brahmins and Jews in *Palayur* to Christianity. Thereafter he baptized the converts in a nearby water tank. The Brahmins who did not convert to the faith gave the epithet of the *Shapa Kadu* or Cursed Place to *Palayur* and migrated to *Vembanad* to purify them.

A major festival that is held every year at the venue of the church, which lasts for two days, has a striking similarity to the Hindu festival held at Thrissur, with lot of fan fare of pageants, orchestra and pyrotechnics. During the lenten season, the popular festival celebrated is called the *Palayur Mahatheerthadanam* or Great Pilgrimage conducted under the auspices of Archdiocesan, when thousands of devotees, without caste distinction, participate in the festival. During the celebration of the *Palayur Mahatheerthadanam* festival, devotees from every nook and corner of India come here carrying a wooden cross. *Muppittu Njayar*, *Thukharana Thirunal* and *Tharpana Thirunal* are other important events conducted at the *Palayur Church*. Newborn babies are brought to this church on *Muppittu Njayar* for baptizing.



RELEVANCE-  
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 100

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

## DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

*Aghandavachana  
Parayanam*

Bible Biennale

Exhibition

*Arangeettam*

*Vachana Hridyastha  
Malsaram*

*St. Aprem  
Sangeetholsavam*

The festival which lasts for seven days include exhibition of Bible and various Bible Scenarios. *Aghandavachana Parayanam* is the non stop reading of the Holy Bible. It also includes the staging of different Christian Art forms. Various *Sabha* members will dedicate music in the festival programs. Processions called *Vachana rali* from different diocese will reach the church on each day of the festival. Bible *Prathishta*, *Sandesham*, are done by the priests on specific days. They also presents National Christian Folklore, Music Band, Christian music, *Ottam Thullal*, International Christian performance, Classical dance, Bible *pavakooth*, *Nadodi nirtham*, *Chavittu Natakam*, *Parichmuttukali*, *Margamkali*, Instrumental music, etc. the festival ends with *Samapana Sammelanam*. The cultural fest includes *Arangeettam*, *Vachana Hridyastha Malsaram*, *St. Aprem Sangeetholsavam* etc.

