



VAIKUNDA EKADESI FESTIVAL

DHANWANTHARI TEMPLE, NELLUVAI



LOCATION

Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation

Erumapetty Panchayat

District

Thrissur



ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Mangad – 1.5 km

Nearest Bus station

Erumapetty Kangode Junction Bus Stop – 2 km

Nearest Railway
station

Shoranur Railway Station – 22.9 km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 75.6 km



CONTACT

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 TIME	DATES	FREQUENCY	DURATION
	December - January	Annually	1 Month



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Long back, as the existing idol in Nelluvai temple got damaged, it was decided to make a new idol, and accordingly, the idol work was carried out from a suitable stone on a small hill at a place called *Muringaththeri*. After finishing the work of this idol, a procession was arranged involving all the devotees in the village with all the traditional *poojas* and they were proceeding to the temple where the idol was supposed to be fixed. During their procession to the temple, the *Ashwini Devatas* at once came in front of the procession and they handed over an idol which is believed to be offered *pooja* by *Vasudeva*, and informed the people that this idol should be fixed in the temple, and the *Ashwini Devatas* got disappeared from the site. Accordingly, the *Sadhus* fixed this idol in the sanctum sanctorum of Nelluvai temple. The *Vaishnava* idol which was carved out in the *Muringaththeri* hill was fixed in a newly arranged small temple in a nearby village called *Cheruthevar Parambu*. Later on, a small temple was constructed in the Nelluvai temple itself just beside the main sanctum sanctorum and this *Vaishnava* idol was re-fixed in this new place. The idol that is fixed in the main sanctum sanctorum has a very long history. The *Dhanvanthari Moorthi* that is worshipped in the Nelluvai temple is supposed to be the God of Physicians (*Ayurveda*). It is believed that they will be provided with good and favorable treatment results to their patients if they devote completely to the *Dhanvanthari Moorthi* with full *bhakthi* and commitment.

 RELEVANCE- (Local / National / International)	Local	 NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED	Approximately 1000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Vaikunda Ekadesi

Udayasthaman pooja

Vilkkezhunnellip

*Atta kuzhambu Uzhinju
Vaikkal Mukkudi
Nivedyam*

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

Vaikunda Ekadesi is celebrated for around one month, earlier it was celebrated for 3 days. Every day *Udayasthaman pooja* is conducted for the diety. For the last 10 days *Vilkkezhunnellip* will be conducted. *Atta kuzhambu Uzhinju Vaikkal* and *Mukkudi Nivedyam* are other important processes. The myth of the *atta kuzhambu nivedyam* is that *Dhanvanthari devan* was made by the *palazhi madhanam* and he came with *cronch*, *chakram*, *jadoogam* and *amritakalasham* in his hands. Here *jadoogam* represents *atta* (hirudinaria), and *amritakalasham* represents medicine. The *attakuzhambu nivedyam* is for getting rid of bad blood and *Mukkudi Nivedyam* is for stomach ailments. The festival concludes with *pooram* and *chendamelam*.

