



KANNI 20 PERUNNAL

MAR THOMA CHERIAPALLY, KOTHAMANGALAM



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Kothamangalam Municipality

District

Ernakulam



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Kothamangalam – 650 m

Nearest Bus station

Cheriapallythazham Bus Bay – 100 m

**Nearest Railway
station**

Aluva Railway Station – 34 km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 32.5 km



CONTACT

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TIME

DATES

October

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

2 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The St. Thomas Church at Kothamangalam, popularly known as Mar Thoma Cheriapally, where the *Saint Baselios Yeldho* is buried is one of the most prominent parishes in India. According to the popular belief, the first church at Kothamangalam, *Martha Mariam Valiyapally*, was established in the 4th century AD by a few *Syriac* Christian families who migrated from Paravur and Angamali. Among the later Christian inhabitants of the place included a few Syrian *Knanaites* who eventually intermingled with the local Christian community. The people of Kothamangalam celebrate the *Cheriyapally Festival* on October 2 and 3 with piety and festivity. In remembrance to the instance of guiding *Mor Yeldho Bava* to this church by a *Nair* (Hindu) Youth, his successors are still given the privilege to hold the traditional lamp of the church and lead the *Rassa* (Church procession) to the church on the festival day of the saint. *Bava* is the Patron Saint of Kothamangalam and *Mar Thoma Cheriyapally* is the source of eternal light of this place. During the festival, devotees offer to their Church the fruits of their labour as well as a share of the money that they earn. They believe all their gains are due to the blessings of *Bava* and they faithfully offer to *Bava* a share of the fruits of their hard work. The *Kanni 20 Perunnal* is an auspicious time to pay homage to *Bava* It is a popular feast and hence the best time to be here is early October when the Festival is held to commemorate *Bava*. This brings devotees from near and far for a great religious and cultural meet. It also provides a social occasion to invite close families and friends to share moments of joy and love. The State Government also has been cooperative always by extending to the church help in managing travel facilities, security arrangements and by declaring a local holiday during the festival. People come to this Church all throughout the year. Devotees are well taken care of by the Church Managing committee. Free food and accommodation are provided to the devotees. The pleasure and pain are shared by every home here and *Bava* of *Cheriyapally*. This makes the place a hallowed ground of holiness for devotees and pilgrims. Dhukrono of the saint is celebrated in the Mar Thoma Church (Cheriyapally) at Kothamangalam with spiritual grandeur every year on October 2 and 3 and is popularly known as *Kanni 20 Perunnal*.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Over 10000



EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Flag Hoisting
Church procession
Special Prayers
Mass Baptisms

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

Groups of pilgrims, irrespective of caste and creed come to the church every day seeking his intercession. And multitudes of devotee's participate in the feast. Moreover, on all Saturdays, *Holy Qurbano* on three altars is offered in the church with special prayers beseeching the saint's intercession. Through the years, the *Marthoma* Church at Kothamangalam, where the Saint is entombed has become a symbol of communal harmony. In remembrance to the instance of guiding *Mor Yeldho Bava* to this church by a Nair (Hindu) Youth, his successors are still given the privilege to hold the traditional lamp of the church and lead the '*Rassa*' (Church procession) to the church on the festival day of the saint. In north *Malankara* it is a very common practise among the faithful to name their new born babies as '*Yeldho*' or '*Basil*' during baptism. The parents believe that by doing so, the saint will protect their children from all evils. Mass Baptisms is very common in this parish particularly on Saturdays, the day of the heavenly abode of our Holy Father. Number of children baptized in the church where *Bava's* mortal remains are interred, on a single day, had even exceeded 50. These days the name '*Yeldho*' (meaning the Birth of Christ) has become very common in the Syrian Christian community.

