

## **THIRUNNAL** ST. MARY'S ORTHODOX CHURCH, KALLOOPPARA



Panchayat/ Municipality/ Corporation

District



Nearest Town/ Landmark/ Junction	Thiruvalla Town – 8 Km
Nearest Bus station	Kallooppara Bus Stop – 200 m
Nearest Railway station	Thiruvalla Railway Station – 8 Km
Nearest Airport	Cochin International Airport – 111 Km

Kallooppara Grama Panchayt

Pathanamthittah



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

In the earlier days the Christian believers of Kallooppara had to depend on the '*Niranam Church*' for the holy mass, funeral ceremonies and other religious rites. The journey on *Vallom* (small boat) through the *Manimala* and Pampa rivers was tedious, tiresome and risky. The renowned Edapally King happened to see a few number of people coming on a *vallom* (small boat) singing melodious hymns accompanied by prayers. The king immediately came down to the river bank to observe the sight more closely and found it to be a burial procession, with the body on the floating hearse covered with a white cloth. The procession that started from *Manimala* was going to *Niranam Church* for the funeral of the dead, as in those days *Niranam Church* was the only Christian church in central Travancore. This event moved the King's heart and having realized the hardship of the Christian subjects, he virtually pointed a plot on the other side of the river, and gave sanction to bury the body and built a church there. But there is no clear evidence for the origin and age of the church. It is commonly believed that the founding stone of the church was laid in Malayalam month of *Karkadakam* 3rd of 515 (A.D.1339). The stone day of the church is being celebrated during the festival.



## **EVENTS/PROGRAMS DESCRIPTION** (How festival is celebrated)



Kodiuyarthal Decoration of church Holy Raza Qurbana Drama Ganamela Religious procession Kallooppara convention is one of the biggest conventions of Malanakara Sabha which is being conducted on the Koithottu sand banks of river Manimala. The vicar of our church is the president of the convention. All the members of orthodox churches near by participate in this convention. The main event of the inaugural ceremony being the Rally conducted by the Sunday school students of the four Sunday schools belonging to the church. The best group will be awarded a trophy and cash award. On the following seven days there will be classes conducted by prominent personalities. Many other cultural events such as musical events drama etc also be there.

