

CHEPPAD PERUNNAL

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Cheppad Panchayat

District

Alappuzha

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/
Junction**

Cheppad Post Office– 140 m

Nearest Bus station

Cheppad Bus Stop – 110 m

**Nearest Railway
station**

Cheppad Railway Station - 1 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 120 KM



ACCESSIBILITY



CONTACT

St. George Orthodox Church
Cheppad
Alappuzha Dist.
Kerala - 690507



TIME

DATES

October

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

St. George Orthodox Church, Cheppad is popularly known as Cheppad Valiyapalli and is a pilgrim centre of Malankara Orthodox Church. The church is also the resting place of Cheppad Philipose Mar Dionysius, Malankara Metropolitan of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church who lived in the mid 19th century. The Christian community is the second largest religious community at Cheppad and many denominations of the Christian faith live here . The church is one of the oldest of the Malankara Orthodox Church, which is an apostolic church established by St. Thomas, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ. There is evidence that one of the churches visited by Archbishop Menasis, in 1599 was Cheppad's St George Syrian Orthodox Church (Valiyapally). In 1956, the Ethiopian Emperor, His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie visited this church. It is believed that the Ethiopian Kings held a blood line to King Solomon. Haile Selassie gifted the church a couple of gold artifacts, which were recently stolen from the church and have not been recovered. These included a gold crucifix from Ethiopia and a Bible with gold engraving in Amharic (a Semitic language spoken in North Central Ethiopia by the Amhara).



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 30,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

Flag Hoisting
Special Qurbana
Rasa
Aghanda prarathana
Vidyarambham
Special Prayers
Seminars
Novena
Spiritual discourses
Feast
Procession
Kodiyirakkam

The festival starts with the hoisting of the flag by Vicar. Religious discourses and special prayers take place on all *the festive days*. *Special Qurbana, Rasa, Aghanda Prarathana* etc. are held. Various religious and cultural programmes are arranged. *Vidyarambham* for children is also an important function. Religious musical concerts by eminent personalities are conducted. Another attraction of the festival is the procession that takes place every day. Band set including school bands, flags, gold-brass-silver wooden crosses, *Allavattom, Venchamaram, Thazahakkuda, Theevetti* and beaded ornate umbrellas etc. make the procession interesting. Feast is offered to devotees and the festivities conclude with the *Kodiyirakkam*

