



# MAR ABO FEAST

## MARTHA MARIAM ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH, THEVELAKKARA



### LOCATION

Panchayath/  
Municipality/  
Corporation

Thevelakkara Grama Panchayath

District

Kollam



### ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction

Thevelakkara Town

Nearest Bus station

Chennankara Bus Stop-2 Km

Nearest Railway  
station

Sasthamkotta Railway Station- 9 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport- 91 Km



## CONTACT

Marthamariam Orthodox Syrian Church & Mar Abo Pilgrim Centre

Thevalakkara, Kollam - 690524

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## TIME

### DATES

January- February; Annual; 10 Days  
Feb 7 And 8 Feast Day

### FREQUENCY

Annual

### DURATION

10 Days

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

Mar Abo hailed from a place now in Iraq called Nineveh. He travelled through a number of places and reached Kollam. He was soon held in high esteem by the people from all walks of life due to his moral and spiritual conduct. The Tharissa church at Kollam, which was established by St Thomas apostle was wrecked by tempest and people did not have a place of worship. Bishop Mar Abo who had reached Kollam in the 8th century AD, rebuilt the Tharissa church using the special privileges accorded to him by the ruler. He was the Guru of Kadamattam Kathanar. A number of people who were cured by the divine powers of this holy man accepted Christianity. Enraged by his miracles, some people began to conspire against him. Realizing the situation through spiritual vision, he called his disciple, Kadamatur Kathanar and gave his finger ring. He told him that whenever the ring falls off from his hand, the Bishop would have left this world. Kadamattam Kathanar unwillingly bid farewell to his Guru. Thereafter, he set off on his journey towards south till he reached Thevalakkara. There he was attracted by the church consecrated in the name of St Mary, the kind-hearted, innocent and loving people of the village. So he thought of spending the rest of his life at a place 'chavadi' in front of the church. Even now, one can see the renovated 'chavadi' where he performed many of his miracles to help the sick and destitute irrespective of their caste, creed or religion. After completing his worldly mission, he left for his heavenly abode. To commemorate his holy life Mar Abo perunnalis conducted from 30 January to 8 February every year.



**RELEVANCE-**  
(Local / National /  
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATED**

Approx.75000

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Flag Hoisting  
Divya Bali  
Raza  
Dhyanam  
Procession  
Special Prayers  
Biblical Drama  
Cultural Programs  
Religious Meeting  
Spiritual Discourses*

## DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

There will be a flag hoisting ceremony on the first day of the festival, marking the beginning. Religious discourses and special prayers were takes place during the festive days. Cultural events also conducted, religious meetings were there. Procession which covers major part of town is also an important event in the festival which attracts lots of people. Biblical drama also be there on the feast days.

