

Malayattoor : 2468208, 2468848
2469207, 2468868

Rector : 2468990
Kurisumudy : 2468308
2283450
Adivaram : 2469008

ST. THOMAS CHURCH, MALAYATTOOR

(ARCHDIOCESE OF ERNAKULAM - ANGAMALY)

MALAYATTOOR - 683 587

(Via) KALADY, KERALA, S. INDIA

Date: 30.11.2020

Justification for Diversion of Forest Land at Kurisumudy for St. Thomas

International Shrine, Kurisumudy, Malayattoor.

St. Thomas International Mount Shrine, Kurisumudy Malayattoor, is the place of international pilgrimage, where St. Thomas, the Disciple of JESUS CHRIST who arrived in India in 52 A.D., for the proclamation of the Gospel stayed and prayed on his 'way to Mylapore in Tamil Nadu, where he embraced martyrdom in the year 72 A.D as per the traditional belief. In 600 A.D., a miraculous golden cross was found appeared by a group of hunting tribal vagabonds on the rock of Malayattoor on which St. Thomas is believed to have remained in prayer and drew the sign of cross amidst the prayer. All the attempts by them to remove the golden cross from the rock failed due to the miraculous bleeding from the cross. Since the news of this wonderful golden cross of St. Thomas spread faster than the forest-fire, pilgrims in crowds have been visiting the shrine and experiencing miraculous healings to their ailments and heavenly solutions to their dispiriting problems. Thus the Malayattoor - Kurisumudy pilgrimage traces back its origin 1400 years ago and still it continues to be a spiritual resort for crowds of people, irrespective of religion, race, caste or creed, through out the year and especially in Lent Season declared by the Holy Catholic Church. The last week of the Lent Season including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday etc, till the eighth day ie. the first Sunday after the Easter on which the resurrected Jesus himself appeared to St. Thomas and asked him to put his index finger into the hole of His pierced Sacred Heart and in turn St. Thomas acclaimed JESUS as "My Lord and My God", people from all over the world in countless crowds like sand-grain flee to take refuge and solace from the Kurisumudy by trekking the hurdle-some steep path of the mount - Malayattoor calling for the help and mediation of St. Thomas, the Ponnin Kurisu Muthappan, (the Forefather Deity of Golden Cross), by commemorating the fourteen stations of the Way of Cross of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world.

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Malayattoor Kurisumudy is the only one international pilgrimage centre in the Continent of Asia.

The State Govt. of Kerala had earlier granted clearance to the lease of 9.1866 Hectres of forest land in Survey No. 421 of Malayattoor Village, Alwaye Taluk to this international pilgrimage centre and was given in lease to the Shrine Authority and it was used as pathway to Kurisumudy by constructing 14 stations of way of the cross as well as the small chapel at the valley side and a considerable extent of land is allocated for the parking of vehicles and stalls for serving the needs of the pilgrims and the shrine authorities laid pipelines from the valley to the mount-top which also served as' hand support to the ascending and descending pilgrims. Some shops and other establishments with a view to aid the pilgrims are also erected in the leased property.

We hereby present a site plan marked with necessary requirements of works to be fulfilled in the coming years which facilitate the pilgrimage.

Kindly refer the site plan (marked with various works proposed) attached as "Annexure "



Fr. Varghese Manavalan
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(Fr. Vicar of St. Thomas Church, Malayattoor &
Vice Rector of St. Thomas International Shrine
Kurisumudy, Malayattoor.)