**Arokia Matha Church**

**Location:** Lakshmipuram, Chennai - 99

* **District:** Chennai
* **Archdiocese:** Chennai-Mylapore Archdiocese
* **Deanery:** Ambattur
* **Status:** Parish Church
* **Sub-parish:** None

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr. Clement Bala

* **Contact:** yet to receive
* **Email:** yet to receive
* **Number of Families:** 550
* **Number of Anbiyams (Small Christian Communities):** 26

**Worship Schedule:**

**Sunday:**

* 06:15 AM – Rosary (English)
* 06:30 AM – Holy Mass (English)
* 08:15 AM – Rosary
* 08:30 AM – Holy Mass
* 08:15 AM – Special Holy Mass for Catechism Students
* 05:30 PM – Holy Mass
* Last Sunday of the month: Special Adoration and Holy Mass (Tamil)

**Monday & Wednesday:**

* 06:15 AM – Rosary & Holy Mass

**Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday:**

* 06:00 PM – Rosary & Holy Mass

**Friday:**

* 06:00 PM – Rosary, 30 minutes of Adoration & Blessing, Holy Mass

**First Friday:**

* 06:00 PM – Rosary, One-hour Special Eucharistic Blessing, Holy Mass

**First Saturday:**

* 06:00 PM – Special Rosary, Special Holy Mass, Healing Service, Procession, and Offering Meal

**Feast Celebration:**

* **Annual Feast:** Celebrated for 12 days from August 28 to September 8

**Notable Local Figure:**

* **Br. Samuel (Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer - Redemptorist Order)**

**Route to the Church:**

* **From Koyambedu:** Take a bus to Kolathur Retteri Bus Stand. From there, it is walkable. The route includes Kadappa Road and Thiruvallur Street, leading to Arokia Matha Church.

**History of the Church**

In 1966, a small Christian community was living in Lakshmipuram, which was then part of the Perambur Lourdes Shrine Parish. The community desired to establish a small chapel. Over time, more families settled in Lakshmipuram, and they worked together to receive pastoral guidance and sacraments from the Church.

With the dedicated efforts of the then Perambur Parish Priest, **Rev. Fr. McFerran SDB**, and the blessings of **Archbishop Arulappa**, 9 cents of vacant land were purchased on **March 27, 1967**, on Vivekanandar Street, Lakshmipuram. A thatched-roof chapel was built, where night school was conducted for underprivileged students. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, the chapel could not be maintained.

During this period, Holy Mass was celebrated in the homes of Christian families by **Rev. Fr. A. M. Chinnappa SDB**, the then Assistant Parish Priest of Perambur. The local people, though economically weak, contributed towards the church activities. Later, in **1970**, another plot of land (the present church location) was purchased, and **Rev. Fr. Antony Hickman** built a small thatched-roof chapel.

More families continued to settle in the area, and by 1975, Lakshmipuram, which was initially a sub-parish of Perambur, became part of the newly established **Peravallur Resurrection Church** in **1976**. The first Parish Priest of Peravallur was **Rev. Fr. Lazar SDB**. In **1979**, **Rev. Fr. Mathew Orathal** purchased additional land for the church.

In **1984**, **Rev. Fr. N. A. Joseph SDB** replaced the old roof with a new structure and helped local children pursue higher education and vocational training.

During **Rev. Fr. Pascal’s tenure**, a boundary wall was constructed around the church. At this time, there were **60 Catholic families** in the parish. **Rev. Fr. Paul Moussariyet** introduced the concept of **Anbiyams (Small Christian Communities)** in **1999**, constructed the **Parish Priest’s residence**, and acquired more land. The **first Anbiyam anniversary** was celebrated in **2001**, and efforts began to elevate the church to a full-fledged parish. The parish boundaries were officially defined.

With **Rev. Fr. Paul Moussariyet’s** persistent efforts, **on June 8, 2003**, a **Holy Mass was celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence Pius**, in the presence of **Perambur Parish Priest Bishop Soundararajan** and **Fr. Paul Moussariyet**, officially declaring Arokia Matha Church as an **independent parish**.

The **first Parish Priest** of the newly established parish was **Rev. Fr. Gnanaprakasham**.

On **September 8, 2008**, **Archbishop A. M. Chinnappa SDB** laid the **foundation stone for the new church building**. The construction was carried out in multiple phases, with the first and second floors completed over time. After **serving for ten years**, Fr. Gnanaprakasham was transferred before the church construction was fully completed. **Rev. Fr. Clement Bala** took over, and with the unwavering support of the parishioners, successfully completed the church construction. On **August 28, 2014**, the church was **consecrated by Archbishop Antony Sami**.

**Current Developments:**

The church now features:

* **A community hall**
* **KBI (Knowledge-Based Initiative) programs**
* **A grand, beautiful flagpole**
* **A long walkway to help elderly and sick parishioners**
* **A modern elevator facility**

Under the **guidance of the present Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. A. Felix Philip**, the parish continues to grow spiritually and structurally.