



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	
First Reading	First Samuel 3: 3b-10, 19
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 40: 2, 4ab, 7-8a, 8b-9,10
Second Reading	First Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20
Alleluia	John 1: 41, 17b
Gospel	John 1: 35-42

First Reading: First Samuel 3: 3b-10, 19

3b Samuel slept in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was.
 4 And the Lord called Samuel. And he answered: Here am I.
 5 And he ran to Heli and said: Here am I: for thou didst call me. He said: I did not call: go back and sleep. And he went and slept.
 6 And the Lord called Samuel again. And Samuel arose and went to Heli, and said: Here am I: for thou calledst me. He answered: I did not call thee, my son: return and sleep.
 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither had the word of the Lord been revealed to him.
 8 And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose up and went to Heli.
 9 And said: Here am I: for thou didst call me. Then Heli understood that the Lord called the child, and he said to Samuel: Go, and sleep: and if he shall call thee any more, thou shalt say: Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and slept in his place.
 10 And the Lord came and stood: and he called, as he had called the other times: Samuel, Samuel. And Samuel said: Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth.
 19 And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and not one of his words fell to the ground.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 40: 2, 4ab, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10

R. (8a and 9a) Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.
 2 With expectation I have waited for the Lord, and he was attentive to me.
 4ab And he put a new canticle into my mouth, a song to our God.

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

7 Sacrifice and oblation thou didst not desire; but thou hast pierced ears for me. Burnt offering and sin offering thou didst not require:
 8a Then said I, Behold I come.

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

8b In the head of the book it is written of me
 9 That I should do thy will: O my God, I have desired it, and thy law in the midst of my heart.

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

10 I have declared thy justice in a great church, lo, I will not restrain my lips: O Lord, thou knowest it.

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Second Reading: First Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20

13c The body is not for fornication, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.
 14 Now God hath both raised up the Lord, and will raise us up also by his power.
 15a Know you not that your bodies are the members of Christ?
 17 But he who is joined to the Lord, is one spirit.
 18 Fly fornication. Every sin that a man doth, is without the body; but he that committeth fornication, sinneth against his own body.
 19 Or know you not, that your members are the temple of the Holy Ghost, who is in you, whom you have from God; and you are not your own?
 20 For you are bought with a great price. Glorify and bear God in your body.

Alleluia: John 1: 41, 17b

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
 41, 17b We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.
 R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: John 1: 35-42

35 The next day again John stood, and two of his disciples.
 36 And beholding Jesus walking, he saith: Behold the Lamb of God.
 37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.
 38 And Jesus turning, and seeing them following him, saith to them: What seek you? Who said to him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

39 He saith to them: Come and see. They came, and saw where he abode, and they stayed with him that day: now it was about the tenth hour.
 40 And Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who had heard of John, and followed him.
 41 He findeth first his brother Simon, and saith to him: We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.
 42 And he brought him to Jesus. And Jesus looking upon him, said: Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is interpreted Peter.

Saint Of The Day

Blessed Lazarus Devasahayam was also known as Neelakanta Pillai. He was born on 23rd April 1712 in the village of Nattalam, The Kingdom of Travancore, India. He worked in the palace of Hindu King Marthanda Varma of Travancore. The kingdom stretched from today's Tamil Nadu state up to Cochin in Kerala state. He died on January 14 1752 at the age of 39 in Aralvaimozhy, Kingdom of Travancore, India in today's Tamil Nadu state. We celebrate his feast day in the Catholic Church on 14th January every year.

Blessed Lazarus Devasahayam Life History

Lazarus Devasahayam was born on 23rd April 1712 at Nattalam in the modern-day Kanyakumari District in Tamil Nadu state, India. His father, Vasudevan Namboodiri, was a priest at Sri Adi Kesava Perumal temple in Thiruvattar in modern-day Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu, India. His mother was called Devaki Amma. As Lazarus Devasahayam was growing up, he was taught the Hindu traditions and beliefs by his maternal uncle as well as the rest of his family members and society in general.

Lazarus Devasahayam's family belonged to the Nair-caste. They were very rich and influential in the royal palace of the King of Travancore Kingdom. This is the royal palace where Lazarus worked as a young energetic man. He had great capabilities and potential and in due time he was promoted and put in charge of state affairs.

Around 1741, a Dutch naval commander called Captain Eustachius De Lannoy had come to India to capture the port of Colachel which was within the Kingdom of Travancore. The war started between Captain Eustachius De Lannoy's army and the soldiers of the Travancore Kingdom. In the end, Captain Eustachius De Lannoy's army was defeated and the remaining soldiers were captured and imprisoned including the captain himself. The merciful king of Travancore later pardoned the captured soldiers on condition that they join the Travancore army. They joined the army and after some time, the king began to trust Captain Eustachius De Lannoy and made him the commander of the Travancore armed forces. During this period, Captain Eustachius De Lannoy and Lazarus Devasahayam became great friends. The captain started to influence Lazarus to accept and join the Christian faith. By 1745, Devasahayam had been completely enlightened in Matters Catholic faith and he was baptized and took the name Lazarus, dropping his name Neelakanda Pillai. He had also influenced his wife Bargavi Ammal to join the Catholic faith and so they were baptized together. Other immediate family members joined the Catholic faith later on.

After his conversion to the Catholic Faith, he refused to worship the Hindu gods of the palace and shunned their pagan traditional festivals. This defiance greatly angered the kingdom officers. Furthermore, he went further to preach equality of all people irrespective of their caste. The royal palace officials could not bear it anymore.

Lazarus Devasahayam was accused of treason by the Hindu priests, the feudal lords, the Nair Caste community, and the royal household members. Consequently, Devasahayam was demoted, relieved of his duties, and thrown into prison on false charges of leaking Kingdom secrets to outsiders and the Europeans.

He was tortured for three years and when the time for execution came he was painted with red and black spots, placed on a water buffalo, and marched around the streets of Travancore. He was whipped every day, his wounds were rubbed with pepper, and only drank stagnant water.

As they were marching to their destination they halted at a place where it is believed that God made water to flow from a rock to quench Devasahayam's thirst. He also knelt to pray and left imprints of his knee and elbow.

Blessed Lazarus Devasahayam Biography



Date of Birth	23 rd April 1712
Place of Birth	Nattalam, Kingdom of Travancore, India
Profession	Catholic Church Layman
Place of Work	Kingdom of Travancore, India
Date of Death	14 th January 1752
Place of Death	Aralvaimozhy, Kingdom of Travancore, India in today's Tamil Nadu state
Feast Day	January 14
Beatification	By Cardinal Angelo Amato on 2 nd December 2012 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Tamil Nadu, Nagercoil, India
CanonizationBy	Pope Francis on 15 May 2022 in Vatican City
Patron Saint of	India Persecuted Christians

Blessed Lazarus Devasahayam Death

Lazarus Devasahayam was cast away in the forested hills near Aralvaimozhy to stay away from the Travancore Kingdom. However, some British soldiers shot him to death at the foothills at Kattadimalai in Kanyakumari district on 14th January 1752.

Lazarus Devasahayam decomposed body was later found and taken to the St. Xavier's Church (St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral), Kottar, Nagercoil in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu state, India.

Beatification

In 1780, a petition for the canonization of Devasahayam was submitted to the Vatican. In 1984, another request for the beatification of Devasahayam was made by members of Nagercoil Catholic Club and other laypersons from the diocese of Kottar, India. On 22nd December 2003, The Diocese of Kottar, India was cleared by the Vatican to open the cause of Devasahayam's martyrdom at the local level. Devasahayam was conferred the title Servant of God.

In 2004, Tamil Nadu Bishops' Council (TNBC) and the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), recommended the Devasahayam beatification after scrutinizing the available evidence.

On 28th June 2012, Devasahayam was declared as "Venerable" by Pope Benedict XVI after living a life of "heroic virtues". On 2nd December 2012, in the Diocese of Kottar, India, Blessed Lazarus Devasahayam Pillai was beatified and declared a Martyr by Angelo Cardinal Amato on behalf of Pope Benedict XVI. He became the first layperson from India to be beatified by the Catholic Church.

Canonization

On 21st February 2020, Pope Francis approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Devasahayam. A lady in India was pregnant with a 20-week-old foetus whose heartbeat had stopped.

The doctors confirmed this but after the lady sought the intercession of Blessed Lazarus Devasahayam, the foetus started kicking and the heartbeat resumed. After the medical board examined the case, they unanimously declared on 28th February 2019, that they could not explain that resuscitation using current medical knowledge. This gave way for the canonization of Blessed Lazarus Devasahayam that will be held on 15th May 2022 by Pope Francis in Vatican City.

Sick Of the Parish:



Please pray for all the Sick in our three Parishes "My Payers and Good Wishes to All."

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