

## Saint Devasahayam Pillai's Story

Neelakandan Pillai was born into an affluent Hindu family in 1712. As a young man he went into the service of the royal household in India's Travancore province. Eventually put in charge of state affairs, Pillai became acquainted with Captain Eustachius De Lannoy, the Dutch naval commander who trained the king of Travancore's forces. Their relationship awakened Pillai's interest in the captain's Christian faith. At his baptism in 1745, Pillai chose the name Lazarus, or Devasahayam in the Malayalam language. His wife and other members of his family were baptized at the same time.

Soon after, Pillai's enemies convinced the royal court that he was using his position to force others to convert, leading to his imprisonment. European Christians in Travancore came to Pillai's defense, urging the king to release him. After three years the king complied under condition that Pillai go into exile to a hostile territory. Though beaten and tortured almost daily, Pillai consistently responded with kindness, openly praying for his captors. Shot to death by local soldiers in 1752, Pillai's body was transported to St. Xavier Church in Kottar. Later when his remains were interred beneath the altar, the site became a popular pilgrimage destination.

In 2012, Devasahayam Pillai became the first Indian layman not connected to any religious institute to be beatified. Ten years later he was canonized in Rome. His liturgical feast is celebrated on January 14<sup>th</sup>  
franciscanmedia. org

### Baptism

If you have a child you would like to be baptised please speak to Canon Michael and fill in an application form.

### Good Shepherd Catecheses

For children aged 3 – approximately 6yrs of age

These wonderful child-centred, hands-on learning sessions about our faith and Jesus will continue here at St Josephs, led by the Sisters of Charity.

If you would like your child to be part of this beautiful experience please come along to the meeting to be held at **St Joseph's at 5pm on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January, where the Sisters will give you more information about the programme and answer any questions you may have.**

### First Holy Communion

Classes continue on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm for those who have made their first Confession.

Any child aged 7+ who would like to make their first Holy Communion must register first by filling in a form available from the office – speak to Shauna or Canon Michael.

### Social Committee to Provide Activities for our Younger Parishioners

Would you like to help organise and supervise activities for our young parishioners? Can you commit to supporting this initiative? Are you prepared to apply for, or do you already hold, an enhanced DBS? If you are interested please email [shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk) and continue to watch this space for further information. Please only respond if you know you have the time, energy and willingness to give.

### New Altar Servers

We are always eager to welcome more young people to our growing family of Altar Servers. If you are aged 7+ and think you may like to give serving a go please speak to either Canon Michael or to Shauna, you can try without making a firm commitment – you'll never know unless you give it a go. Our servers are a very happy group of friendly and supportive individuals, come and chat to any one of them about the role.

### St Joseph's Teas and Coffees

This weekly event will **resume on the 12<sup>th</sup> January**, why not come along and make some new friends whilst enjoying a free cuppa in a warm, welcoming environment.

### Book Club

Set yourself a New Year's resolution to read a book once a month and come along to discuss its contents with others in a relaxed and friendly parish family atmosphere.

Our **next meeting** will take place in the last week of **JANUARY** at **7.00pm**. **The day is still to be fixed**

The book we are reading and will be talking about is **"Utopia by St Thomas More"**.

All are very welcome.

St Wilfrid's Weekly Income 04/01/25

Loose Plate: £102

Gift Aided: £82

St Joseph's Weekly Income 05/01/25

Loose Plate: £207

Gift Aided: £75

**Pilgrimage: Hearts in Search of God - Webinar**

Why go on Pilgrimage? All are welcome to join us for this online Year of Jubilee formation opportunity based on pilgrimage.

We are delighted to welcome our guest speaker Dr Phil McCarthy, project lead for Hearts in Search of God: Pilgrim Ways, who will share his wisdom and experience based on the history, significance and spirituality of pilgrimage. The session will also explore and consider some of the options and practicalities for embarking on a local pilgrimage during the Year of Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope.

**Date: Wednesday 15 January 2025 | Time: 7.00pm – 8.00pm | Online via Zoom**

Please contact [adminfaith.mission@diocesahn.org.uk](mailto:adminfaith.mission@diocesahn.org.uk) or call 0191 243 3316 to book your place. Booking deadline is Monday 13 January 12 noon.

**Tyneside Circle of the Newman Association**

Next meeting: a talk by **John Murray** on **Mgr Kevin Nichols: "the poem"**

WHEN: Tuesday 14 January

TIME: 2.30pm

WHERE: Parish hall of Holy Name, Jesmond

ALL are very welcome.

**CELEBRATION of MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE**

Bishop Stephen will preside at a Celebration of Marriage and Family Life Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday 8 February 2025 at 12:00pm.

**White Flower Appeal**

The annual retiring collection for the work of SPUC will be on the weekend of **25/26<sup>th</sup> January**.

If you would like to have the newsletter emailed to you please email your address to: -  
[shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk)

Access the newsletter via the website, scan the QR code on the poster at the back of church, or access via  
[www.stjosephscatholicchurchgateshead.org.uk](http://www.stjosephscatholicchurchgateshead.org.uk)

St Joseph's Catholic  
Church  
High West Street  
Gateshead  
NE8 1LX



Our Lady & St  
Wilfrid's Catholic  
Church  
Sunderland Road  
NE8 3QR

Parishes of the John Ingram Partnership

**Parish Priest: Canon Michael Brown**

St Joseph's Presbytery, High West Street, Gateshead, NE8 1LX

Tel: 01914771631

Email: [cnmichaelbrown@gmail.com](mailto:cnmichaelbrown@gmail.com)

Parish website: [www.stjosephscatholicchurchgateshead.org.uk](http://www.stjosephscatholicchurchgateshead.org.uk)

January 12<sup>th</sup> 2025 Baptism of Our Lord (OF) Feast of Holy Family (EF)

Our Lady and St Wilfrid's Mass Times and Other Services

DAY	DATE	TIME	INTENTION
Saturday	January 11 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm	Priest's Intention
Sunday	January 12 <sup>th</sup>		
Monday	January 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Marcellus Ejiogu
Tuesday	January 14 <sup>th</sup>		
Wednesday	January 15 <sup>th</sup>		
Thursday	January 16 <sup>th</sup>		
Friday	January 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Funeral Service for Norah Gallagher
Saturday	January 18 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm	Priest's Intention

**Confessions:** Before Mass on Saturdays

St Joseph's Mass Times and Other Services

DAY	DATE	TIME	INTENTION
Saturday	January 11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am (EF)	
Sunday	January 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Dennis Duffy
		12.00pm (EF)	People of the Parish
Monday	January 13 <sup>th</sup>		
Tuesday	January 14 <sup>th</sup>	12.05pm	Holy Souls
Wednesday	January 15 <sup>th</sup>	12.05pm	Tommy Matthews
Thursday	January 16 <sup>th</sup>	12.05pm	Well Being of J-B Kim
Friday	January 17 <sup>th</sup>	12.05pm	NO MASS
Saturday	January 18 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am (EF)	Intentions of Mar family
Sunday	January 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	People of the Parish
		12.00pm	For Families: Unity & Peace

(EF) = EXTRAORDINARY FORM OF THE MASS IN LATIN ACCORDING TO 1962 ROMAN MISSAL

**Confessions: Saturday 12-12.30 and Wednesday after Mass**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursday 11.00 – 11.55  
Saturday 7.00am (led by CMUK/St Joseph's Men)**