

Parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation - King's Lynn

Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation
London Road,
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Holy Family Church
Field Lane, Gaywood,
King's Lynn. PE30 4AY

Thursday, 14th May 2020

Good morning,

Today is the Feast of St Matthias, Apostle

From the Divine Office:

He was chosen by the apostles to take the place of Judas so that he may be a witness of the resurrection of the Lord. The story of how he was numbered with the other apostles is found in the Acts of the Apostles (1:15-26)

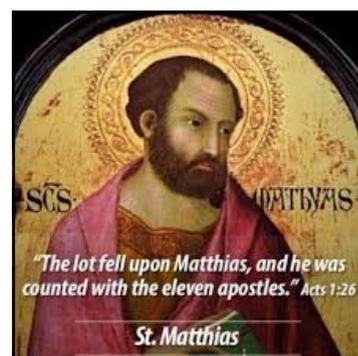
Attached for you is the second reading from the Office of the Readings from the homilies of St John Chrysostom. (Plus the Mass readings for today)

From <https://universalis.com/europe.english.eastanglia/20200514/today.htm>

He was not one of the Twelve; but after the treachery and death of Judas Iscariot, someone was needed to take his place. Two candidates were selected, and lots were drawn to see which of them should be made one of the Twelve: the choice fell on Matthias. Nothing is known for certain about his subsequent history.

Drawing lots to select a candidate for an office sounds strange to us, but it was a recognised Jewish custom: for example, the priest who was to enter the Temple sanctuary and burn incense there was not chosen by some rota but by lot. Random events, independent of any obvious natural or human cause, were seen as a direct expression of God's will. Drawing lots was not a substitute for human decision – human beings had chosen Matthias as a candidate, human beings decided which priests were eligible on which days – but a way of putting the final choice into the hands of God.

When we attain some high or responsible position, we may be tempted to congratulate ourselves on being the best candidate for the job. We would do well to remember that we have got there because of the people we have met and the things we have found ourselves doing, and, more fundamentally, because of the gifts and talents that God has given us. These things are essentially random: like Matthias, we have been chosen by lot.



The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Norwich

<http://www.sjbcathedral.org.uk/>

Mass streamed live at 10am each day.

You tube link is:

<https://youtu.be/H3G2DP6gueE>

A reminder about the live stream of Mass at **7pm** this evening:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/masses-for-the-sick-and-their-families-nhs-front-line-workers-and-those-working-in-social-care/>

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales recognise that this time of the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every person in our countries. Those who are sick, and their families, are suffering many hardships of isolation from contact with those they love.

Our front-line workers in hospitals and in care homes all over our lands are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time.

In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those who are involved in the ways described above, each week on a Thursday, a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join.

This will take place every Thursday at 7pm.

The Mass this evening will be celebrated by **Bishop Robert Byrne CO at St Mary's Cathedral.**

<https://www.stmaryscathedral.org.uk/>

You tube link to the Cathedral:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC12EvW0Eqg-cFTh5i2y_EQw

The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle are holding a Diocesan Day of Prayer today - Attached is the Programme of Events.

<http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/index.php>

Some information on Bishop Robert Byrne for you:

http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/bishop_rb/bishop.php

On Monday 4 February 2019, Pope Francis announced that Bishop Byrne would serve as the fourteenth Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle succeeding the Rt. Rev. Séamus Cunningham.

His Episcopal Installation was celebrated by the Most Rev. Malcolm McMahon, Archbishop of Liverpool on Monday 25 March 2019, the Feast of the Annunciation, at the Cathedral Church of St. Mary's in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Born in Manchester in September 1956, Bishop Byrne entered Birmingham Oratory in 1980 and was ordained to the priesthood in January 1985.

In 1990, he was part of a group from Birmingham who moved to St. Aloysius parish, Oxford, to found what was to become the Oxford Oratory in 1993. He served as Provost from 1993-2011.

In 2012, Bishop Byrne was appointed Secretary to the Bishops' Conference Department of Dialogue and Unity having served as a prison chaplain for over 35 years.

Bishop Byrne was Ordained an Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Birmingham in St. Chad's Cathedral on Tuesday 13 May 2014.



*The Rt. Rev. Robert Byrne
Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle*



With thanks to Shelia and Maureen here is a photo of Verity. What a lovely photo!

I wish you a lovely day. Love, thoughts and prayers,
Shaun

Deacon Shaun Morrison

07880 600094

Second Reading

A homily of St John Chrysostom on the Acts of the Apostles

Make known to us, Lord, the one you choose

In those days, Peter, stood up in the midst of the disciples and said.... As the fiery spirit to whom the flock was entrusted by Christ and as the leader in the band of the apostles, Peter always took the initiative in speaking: My brothers, we must choose from among our number. He left the decision to the whole body, at once augmenting the honour of those elected and avoiding any suspicion of partiality. For such great occasions can easily lead to trouble. Did not Peter then have the right to make the choice himself? Certainly he had the right, but he did not want to give the appearance of showing special favour to anyone. Besides he was not yet endowed with the Spirit. And they nominated two, we read, Joseph, who was called Barsabbas and surnamed Justus, and Matthias. He himself did not nominate them; all present did. But it was he who brought the issue forward, pointing out that it was not his own idea but had been suggested to him by a scriptural prophecy. So he was speaking not as a teacher but as an interpreter.

So, he goes on, we must choose from those men who lived in our company. Notice how insistent he is that they should be eyewitnesses. Even though the Spirit would come to ratify the choice, Peter regards this prior qualification as most important.

Those who lived in our company, he continued, all through the time when the Lord Jesus came and went among us. He refers to those who had dwelt with Jesus, not just those who had been his disciples. For of course from the very beginning many had followed him. Notice how it is written that Peter himself was one of the two who had listened to John, and followed Jesus. All through the time when the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning with the baptism of John – rightly so, because no one knew what had happened before that time, although they were to know of it later through the Spirit.

Up to the day, Peter added, on which he was taken up from us – one of these must be made a witness along with us of his resurrection. He did not say “a witness of the rest of his actions” but only a witness of the resurrection. That witness would be more believable who could declare that he who ate and drank and was crucified also rose from the dead. He needed to be a witness not of the times before or after that event, and not of the signs and wonders, but only of the resurrection itself. For the rest happened by general admission, openly; but the resurrection took place secretly, and was known to these men only.

And they all prayed together, saying: You, Lord, know the hearts of men; make your choice known to us. “You,” not “we.” Appropriately they said that he knew the hearts of men, because the choice was to be made by him, not by others.

They spoke with such confidence, because someone had to be appointed. They did not say “choose” but make known to us the chosen one; the one you choose, they said, fully aware that everything was pre-ordained by God. They then drew lots. For they did not think themselves worthy to make the choice of their own accord, and therefore they wanted some sign for their instruction.

Responsory

- ℣. Lord, you can read everyone's heart: * show us whom you have chosen to take over the ministry and apostolate, alleluia.
- ℟. Then they drew lots. The name chosen was that of Matthias, and he was added to the group of the eleven apostles; * show us whom you have chosen to take over the ministry and apostolate, alleluia.



DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**

Diocesan Day of Prayer - Programme of Events:

Links to our stream will follow in due course.

10.00am - Morning Prayer:

The 'Divine Office' is a beautiful and ancient traditional prayer for the whole people of God to say together. Live streamed from St. Mary's Cathedral Newcastle at

<https://bit.ly/StMarysCathedral>

11.00am - Lectio Divina:

Lectio Divina is a way of praying with Scriptures. The Word becomes a lens so that people can find the presence of God more readily in daily life. Canon Chris Jackson leads us in Lectio Divina.

12.00pm - Holy Mass:

Join together as a Diocesan family with the clergy of St. Mary's Cathedral as they celebrate Holy Mass on our day of prayer. Live streamed from St. Mary's Cathedral Newcastle at

<https://bit.ly/StMarysCathedral>

1.00pm - Intercessory Prayer:

An opportunity to join our hearts and minds with others and together pray for those in need. Submit your prayers prior to the session via

<https://bit.ly/SYPDOP>

2.00pm - Children leading prayers:

St. Cuthbert's RC primary school North Shields and St. Matthews RC primary school Prudhoe will lead us in prayer

3.00pm - Visio Divina:

This form of prayer is linked to Lectio Divina but instead of reading the Word of God, images are used to allow God to speak to us in a deeper way. Exclusive to our Diocese is the Visio Divina produced by Sr. Michael, Sister of Mercy, Sunderland.

4.00pm - Love chooses you!:

This time of prayer, led by our Youth Ministry Team, will support you to examine how God is with you, choosing you, in this time'

5.00pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Here we place ourselves before Christ in this beautiful, intimate way, knowing that Christ remains present. Live streamed from St. Mary's Cathedral Newcastle at

<https://bit.ly/StMarysCathedral>

6.00pm - The Rosary:

Meditating on the great mysteries of our faith, we pray for Mary's intercession for all those affected by this pandemic. Live streamed from St. Mary's Cathedral Newcastle at

<https://bit.ly/StMarysCathedral>

7.00pm - Holy Mass:

In this Holy Mass, we are invited to join Bishop Byrne in praying for the sick and their families, and all who in the NHS and other services give themselves tirelessly for the sake of the communities which they serve. Live streamed from St. Mary's Cathedral Newcastle at

<https://bit.ly/StMarysCathedral>

Further information including liturgical and prayer resources will be made available on the Diocesan website in the near future at

<http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/index.php>.

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Daily Mass Readings Thursday of the 5th Week of Eastertide

First reading - Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

'Let someone else take his office'

One day Peter stood up to speak to the brothers – there were about a hundred and twenty persons in the congregation: 'Brothers, the passage of scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit, speaking through David, foretells the fate of Judas, who offered himself as a guide to the men who arrested Jesus – after having been one of our number and actually sharing this ministry of ours. Now in the Book of Psalms it says:

Let his camp be reduced to ruin,
Let there be no one to live in it.

And again:

Let someone else take his office.

'We must therefore choose someone who has been with us the whole time that the Lord Jesus was travelling round with us, someone who was with us right from the time when John was baptising until the day when he was taken up from us – and he can act with us as a witness to his resurrection.'

Having nominated two candidates, Joseph known as Barsabbas, whose surname was Justus, and Matthias, they prayed, 'Lord, you can read everyone's heart; show us therefore which of these two you have chosen to take over this ministry and apostolate, which Judas abandoned to go to his proper place.' They then drew lots for them, and as the lot fell to Matthias, he was listed as one of the twelve apostles.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 112(113):1-8

The Lord sets him in the company of the princes of his people.

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore!

The Lord sets him in the company of the princes of his people.

From the rising of the sun to its setting
praised be the name of the Lord!

High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.

The Lord sets him in the company of the princes of his people.

Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth?

The Lord sets him in the company of the princes of his people.

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the dungheap he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people.

The Lord sets him in the company of the princes of his people.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I chose you from the world
to go out and bear fruit,
fruit that will last,
says the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel - John 15:9-17

You are my friends if you do what I command you

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father’s commandments
and remain in his love.

I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:
love one another, as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends,
if you do what I command you.

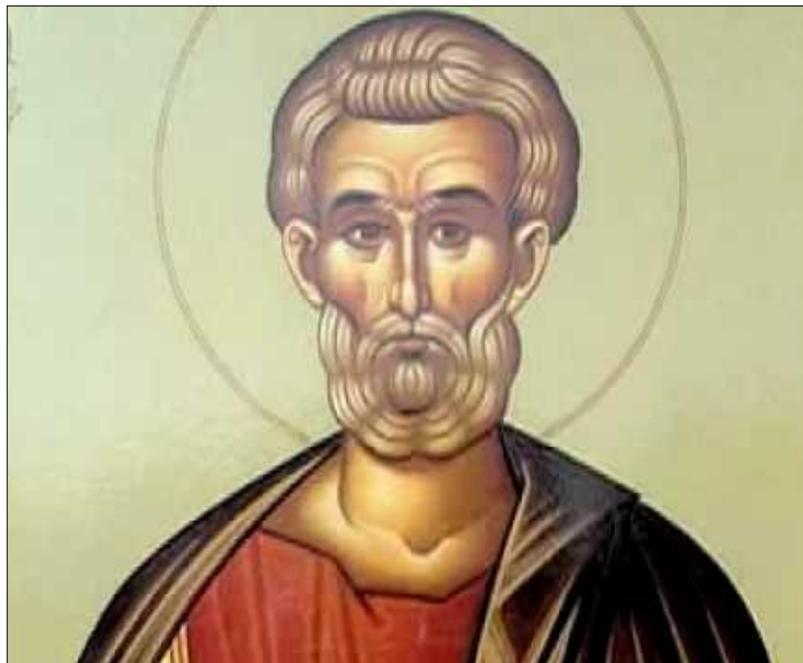
I shall not call you servants any more,

because a servant does not know
his master's business;
I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me:
no, I chose you;
and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last;
and then the Father will give you
anything you ask him in my name.
What I command you
is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Feast Day of
St Matthias, Apostle
14th May*

St. Matthias, Apostle
Feast Day: May 14
Author and Publisher - Catholic Online



The first act of the apostles after the Ascension of Jesus was to find a replacement for Judas. With all the questions, doubts, and dangers facing them, they chose to focus their attention on finding a twelfth apostle. Why was this important? Twelve was a very important number to the

Chosen People: twelve was the number of the twelve tribes of Israel. If the new Israel was to come from the disciples of Jesus, a twelfth apostle was needed.

But Jesus had chosen the original twelve. How could they know whom he would choose?

One hundred and twenty people were gathered for prayer and reflection in the upper room, when Peter stood up to propose the way to make the choice.

Peter had one criterion, that, like Andrew, James, John, and himself, the new apostle be someone who had been a disciple from the very beginning, from his baptism by John until the Ascension. The reason for this was simple, the new apostle would must become a witness to Jesus' resurrection. He must have followed Jesus before anyone knew him, stayed with him when he made enemies, and believed in him when he spoke of the cross and of eating his body -- teachings that had made others melt away.

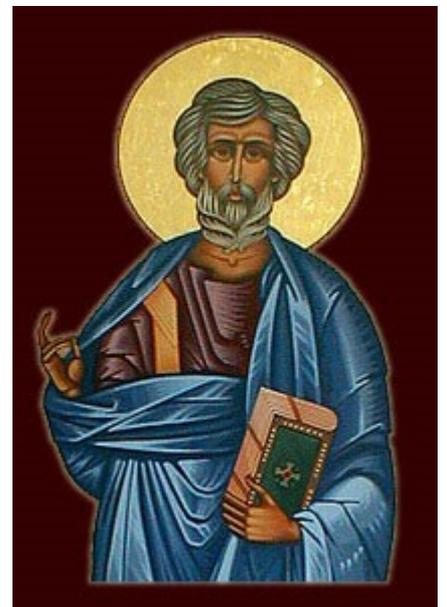
Two men fit this description -- Matthias and Joseph called Barsabbas. They knew that both these men had been with them and with Jesus through his whole ministry. But which one had the heart to become a witness to his resurrection. The apostles knew that only the Lord could know what was in the heart of each. They cast lots in order to discover God's will and Matthias was chosen. He was the twelfth apostle and the group was whole again as they waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

That's the first we hear of Matthias in Scripture, and the last. Legends like the Acts of Andrew and Matthias testify to Matthias' enthusiastic embrace of all that being an apostle meant including evangelization, persecution, and death in the service of the Lord.

Matthias was, according to the Acts of the Apostles (written c. AD 80–90), chosen by the apostles to replace Judas Iscariot following the latter's betrayal of Jesus and his subsequent death. His calling as an apostle is unique, in that his appointment was not made personally by Jesus, who had already ascended into heaven, and it was also made before the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the early Church.

There is no mention of a Matthias among the lists of disciples or followers of Jesus in the three synoptic gospels, but according to Acts, he had been with Jesus from his baptism by John until his Ascension. In the days following, Peter proposed that the assembled disciples, who numbered about 120, nominate two men to replace Judas. They chose Joseph called Barsabas (whose surname was Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, "Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all [men], shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." [Acts 1:24–25] Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

No further information about Matthias is to be found in the canonical New Testament. Even his name is variable: the Syriac version of Eusebius calls him throughout not Matthias but "Tolmai", not to be confused with Bartholomew (which means Son of Tolmai), who was one



of the twelve original Apostles; Clement of Alexandria refers once to Zacchaeus in a way which could be read as suggesting that some identified him with Matthias; the *Clementine Recognitions* identify him with Barnabas; Hilgenfeld thinks he is the same as Nathanael in the Gospel of John.

Ministry

The tradition of the Greeks says that St. Matthias planted the faith about Cappadocia and on the coasts of the Caspian Sea, residing chiefly near the port Issus.

According to Nicephorus (*Historia eccl.*, 2, 40), Matthias first preached the Gospel in Judaea, then in Aethiopia (by the region of Colchis, now in modern-day Georgia) and was there stoned to death. An extant Coptic *Acts of Andrew and Matthias*, places his activity similarly in "the city of the cannibals" in Aethiopia. A marker placed in the ruins of the Roman fortress at Gonio (Apsaros) in the modern Georgian region of Adjara claims that Matthias is buried at that site.

The *Synopsis of Dorotheus* contains this tradition: "Matthias preached the Gospel to barbarians and meat-eaters in the interior of Ethiopia, where the sea harbour of Hyssus is, at the mouth of the river Phasis. He died at Sebastopolis, and was buried there, near the Temple of the Sun."

Alternatively, another tradition maintains that Matthias was stoned at Jerusalem by the local populace, and then beheaded (cf. Tillemont, *Mémoires pour servir à l'histoire ecclesiastique des six premiers siècles*, I, 406–7). According to Hippolytus of Rome, Matthias died of old age in Jerusalem.

Writings

Surviving fragments of the lost Gospels of Matthias attribute it to Matthias, but Early Church Fathers attributed it to heretical writings in the 2nd century.

Veneration



His reliquary in Padua.

The feast of Saint Matthias was included in the Roman Calendar in the 11th century and celebrated on the sixth day to the Calends of March (24 February usually, but 25 February in leap years). In the revision of the General Roman Calendar in 1969, his feast was transferred to 14 May, so as not to celebrate it in Lent but instead in Eastertide close to the Solemnity of the Ascension, the event after which the Acts of the Apostles recounts that Matthias was selected to be ranked with the Twelve Apostles.
