

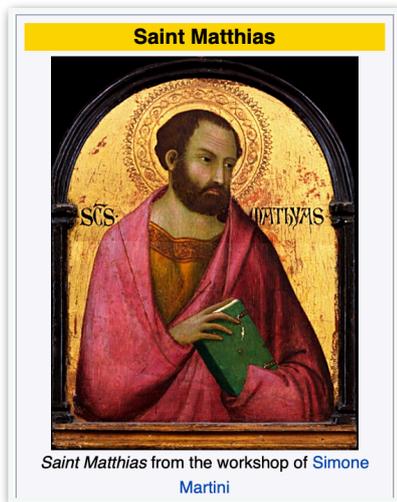
Thursday 14 May 2020

Daily email to friends of St Matthew Croydon

Matthias the Apostle

Dear Friends

As we remember St Matthias on this day, let us pray today's Collect:



**Almighty God,
who in the place of the traitor Judas
chose your faithful servant Matthias
to be of the number of the Twelve:
preserve your Church from false apostles
and, by the ministry of faithful pastors and teachers,
keep us steadfast in your truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen**

We know from the gospels that many women followed Jesus, as did many other men than the twelve apostles. In Luke chapter 10 we hear that he sent 70 disciples out in pairs into the towns and places where he intended to go. I expect that Matthias was amongst their number, for he had been present much earlier when Jesus was baptised by John in the river Jordan.

Following the ascension of Christ, the disciples returned to Jerusalem, staying together and engaging in prayer with Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers - see Acts 1.14. They were in a sense isolating themselves from others - though not to the extent that we are today individually in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was during this period that Peter identified a need to replace the traitor Judas who had by then killed himself for betraying Christ to the authorities. He expressed the job specification in the following terms in Acts 1.21-23: "So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." The eleven disciples proposed two names: Matthias and Joseph: and prayed to God for his choice to be revealed - by lot. It was apparently in such a way that Matthias became one of the apostles.

Apart from the method of his choosing, there is little of certainty known about Matthias. There are fragments about his teaching in and around the Caucasus mountains in modern day Georgia. You can find more from various online sources including [Wikipedia](#).

May you and yours stay safe and secure in these challenging times

Richard