

FAMILY PRAYER

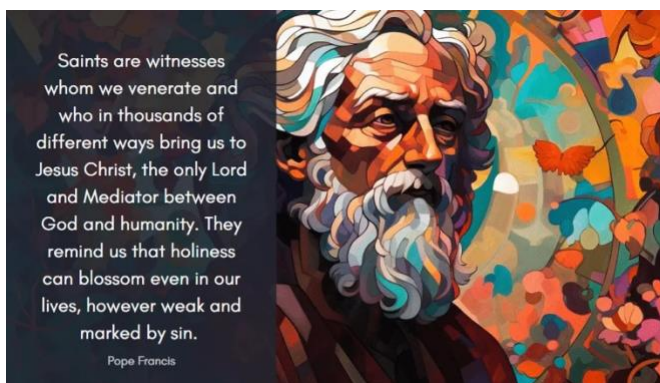
At Home

All Saints
Catholic Academy Trust



Thursday 21st September 2023

The Feast of St Matthew the Evangelist



Today is the feast of St Matthew. The calling of St Matthew is for many of us a great sign of hope and a reminder that Jesus did not come to save the already perfect but for those of us who make mistakes and are definitely not perfect.

gather together

Try to create a prayerful atmosphere before you begin your family prayer. Perhaps light a candle to remind you that Jesus is with you..

'Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.' *Matthew 18:20*

Begin your prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*O Glorious St. Matthew
through the grace of God Our Father you gave us the
Holy Gospel, which brings us joy and life.
Inspired by your example, I ask for your assistance in all
my needs.
Help me to follow Christ and remain faithful to His service.
Amen.*

Jesus chose twelve men to be His closest friends and companions. These were the apostles, one of whom was called Matthew, also known as Levi, son of Alphaeus. He was an accountant!

At the time, Palestine was ruled by the Romans who demanded the payment of taxes from all Jews. These taxes were sums of money demanded from all money earned, supposedly for the benefit and upkeep of the province. The men employed by the Romans to collect these taxes were called tax-collectors. These men were considered traitors and sinners because, besides working with the Romans, many of them charged their community more money in taxes than they should. Then, they would keep the extra money for themselves!

Scripture

Matthew 9:9-13

'As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'"

Reflect

Life changed for Matthew when Jesus passed the place where he was collecting taxes. Matthew's eyes met the eyes of Jesus, followed by the dramatic call, "**Follow Me.**" There and then, Matthew left everything and followed Jesus. By the evening, Jesus was dining with Matthew, to the surprise of all the people who knew him.

What do you think Matthew could have felt when he looked into Jesus' eyes?

What made him leave everything and follow Jesus?

What made him leave everything and follow Jesus?

Matthew had a special call. Jesus also calls us to follow Him. All the good thoughts, good examples from other people, that prompt us to do good are all invitations to follow Jesus in what we say and in what we do.



This song from Hillsong reminds us that 'Christ is Enough.'

Spend a few minutes in quiet prayer or listening to the song.

Amen

Prepared by Mrs. Wilson,
Headteacher of Divine Saviour.