

Reflection Saturday 4th Week Easter St Matthias 2022

St Matthias, was not one of the original Twelve; he replaced Judas Iscariot. Two candidates were selected and, using lots, the choice fell to Matthias to become the 12th Apostle. Nothing is known for certain about his subsequent history.

Drawing lots to select a candidate was a recognised Jewish custom: the priest who entered the Temple sanctuary to burn incense was chosen by lot. Random events, independent of any obvious natural or human cause, were believed to be direct expressions of God's will. Note that people had first chosen Matthias as a candidate; people decided which priest was eligible and on which days; casting lots was seen as giving God the final choice.

We do well to realise that any authority or responsibility we have, however important, has come to us through the goodness and mercy of God and because of the experiences, gifts and talents God has given us. Essentially, then, like Matthias, we have also been chosen by lot.

Remembering that God's commandments are to love God and love our neighbour, it is no wonder that Jesus keeps referring to the importance of Love. As the song goes "*Love is a many splendid thing!*" The love of God in which we were made and which fills our lives is far more than splendid, it is the source and expression of true life.

Pope Francis: "*It is not us who first loved God, it is God who loved us first.*" God is always first. God is the first to wait for us, the first to love us, the first to help us; God's love has no limits. It is a love that cannot be understood, yet the love of God is so great it is a '*bottomless sea without shores...*' God manifests his love both in word and action often through small acts of tenderness and goodness. Thus, God helps us understand the greatness of love. God's greatest gesture was sending his own son who manifested love in the flesh and who died for our sins. Our works of mercy are a continuation of this love!"

Why do dice always prefer to be in twos?

Because it's a pair a' dice.

Just bought a set of dice but all the 2s, 4s and 6s have been blanked out. They're very odd.