

Reflection Wednesday week 25 St Matthew Apostle 2022

St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist was born in Capernaum, and was working as a tax-collector when Jesus called him. He is thought to have written an early version of his gospel in Aramaic, a precursor to the Greek version we now have. He is also said to have preached in the East.

St Paul says: *Each one of us has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it.* For Matthew his call by Jesus made this grace obvious. But he discovered in following Jesus his other great gift as an evangelist. He has helped us and many to understand the message and inspiration of Jesus and to what length God will go to save us.

Many of us were called at a very early age that did not demand a radical change in life as was the case for Matthew. However, we have been graced by God and in our efforts to live the Gospel: loving God and neighbour, putting God and our faith at the centre of our lives, we, too, will discover how best to serve God. Queen Elizabeth II is a vivid and inspiring example of this. The mercy of Jesus not only forgives the past but inspires, encourages and promotes a better future. Let us be people of mercy. Let Jesus' mercy inspire and motivate us. The future may be uncertain but we are in safe hands. The mercy of Jesus will work in us just as it did in St Matthew.

Once again Queen Elizabeth II has some words of wisdom for us: *Therefore, I am sure that this, my Coronation, is not the symbol of a power and a splendour that are gone but a declaration of our hopes for the future, and for the years I may, by God's Grace and Mercy, be given to reign and serve you as your Queen.*