

Reflection Wednesday 4th Week of Easter St Mathias 2025

Although not one of the Twelve, Mathias was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot. Two candidates were selected, and lots were drawn to see who would become one of the Twelve: the choice fell on Matthias. However, little is known of his subsequent history.

Drawing lots to select a candidate for an office may seem strange, but it was a recognised Jewish custom. The priest chosen to enter the Temple sanctuary and burn incense there was chosen by lot. Random events, independent of any obvious natural or human cause, were seen as a direct expression of God's will. Drawing lots did not replace human decision – Matthias was chosen as a candidate. People chose suitable candidates for the office, then cast lots giving God the final choice.

When we are given some important or responsible position, we can be tempted to congratulate ourselves on being the best candidate for the job. We would do well to remember that we have been given this opportunity because of people we've met and the experiences we have had, and, more fundamentally, because of the gifts and talents that God has given us. These things are essentially random. Just like Matthias, we have also been chosen by lot.

'It behoves us to combat the flesh, and make use of it, without pampering it by unlawful gratifications. As to the soul, we must develop her power by faith and knowledge. '