



St Matthew's Holland Park  
Weekly Bulletin 15th September  
2024

**Anglican**  
Church Southern Queensland

*Welcome to Bishop John, Baby Luca and the Neilson family and friends who join us upon our Patronal Festival today!*

*This week's Revd. Morris' message: **Will we, like St Matthew, follow Jesus?***

In today's Gospel, Jesus calls our patron, Saint Matthew, to 'follow him'. Well, who was this Saint who so impressed our forebears that this Church and Parish is dedicated to him? Well, actually, not too much is known about him.

What we do know from Biblical sources is that he seemed to be also known as Levi [ see Mark 2 :14 and Luke 5:27 + 28], he was a Tax collector [ thus a hated, notoriously corrupt and greedy accomplice to the Roman oppressors], was a disciple on Jesus's inner circle of followers, and was an eyewitness to Jesus's whole ministry. According to some extra Biblical traditions, he became an effective early Evangelist, travelling widely spreading the Gospel until he was finally martyred in what is now Syria. Of course, he was credited with also having written the Gospel bearing his name.



Clearly there was something about St Matthew that appealed to our forebears. I wonder what it could have been?

Could it be that his story illustrated that no matter where you find yourself in life, no matter what you may have done or left undone and the poor decisions you have made ... Jesus is just always '*passing on by*', *giving you another chance in life* and inviting you to to *change direction and follow Him*? And what a contribution Matthew made to the faith and the early Church when he did so - and from such a blighted beginning!

Perhaps Matthew represented an *example of humility in service*? When you consider the other Disciples' occupations, Matthew may have been one of the better educated Disciples and may also had greater worldly experience and contacts. There is evidence within the Gospel of Matthew that the author had the background of a lay scribe and, as a tax collector, would also be an excellent 'numbers man'. Yet, despite this, Matthew was not chosen as the Group Treasurer; with that position being unfortunately allocated to Judas [ who helped himself to the funds as well as betraying Jesus - see John 12:6 ]. As illustrated in today's Gospel, Matthew's ministry perhaps focussed more upon the marginalised and the outcast. We see him happily inviting 'tax collectors and 'sinners' [ the derogatory Jewish term for those whose morals and lifestyle were not aligned with the Mosaic Law] to dine with Jesus.

Perhaps Matthew's ministry to fellow sinners could draw upon his tax collecting experiences of rejection by other 'righteous people' and also his own feelings of self loathing? Perhaps he felt that he had 'sold out' his faith and people in order to garner wealth, influence as well as Roman support and protection? Perhaps, other 'outcasts and

sinners' could see in his story a chance for themselves and an assurance that Jesus will bring His grace, mercy, healing and restoration to those who society often ignores or dismisses.

### ***So what does this all mean for us today?***

I wonder if :

...We may be treating someone we know as an 'outcast'? I wonder what Jesus would say about that?

...There may be an 'outcast', like Matthew, that you or I may be able to point to Jesus? What could be holding us back from doing this?

...There may be some [ or a lot] of the '*Matthew outcast*' in all of us at some points in our lives?

... You may now being called by Jesus to something? Will you follow?

### ***A prayer of thanks for St Matthew :***

O Lord, we give you thanks for the life and example of St Matthew who portrayed Jesus in His Gospel as the longed for Messiah and Saviour who established the New Covenant of Love. May we, like St Matthew, also receive Your Grace to see that same Jesus now living and active in His Church, to be in earnest about Kingdom business and to be determined to follow His way for us in our own age and circumstances. **Amen.**

**Gospel reading:** Matthew 9:9-13

**Some resources to dig deeper:** <https://overviewbible.com/matthew-the-apostle/> <https://www.theclassroom.com/what-were-the-professions-of-the-twelve-apostles-12083577.html>

**Upcoming Parish Activities:** **Midweek service** : Wednesday 10:30 a.m ; **Every Sunday Guitars and Ukulele lessons** at 3 p.m; **Bible Study** Wednesday at 7 pm and Friday at 10:30 am; **Messy Church** 9 am 29/9/24.

**Next weeks readings:** **Margaret** : Proverbs 31:10-31; Ps 1; **Mary:** James 3:1-12; Mark 9:30-37.

### ***Parish Directory:***

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**Bank Details:** Holland Park Anglican Church Anfin BSB 704 901; Acct: 00000760.

**Parish website** : <https://www.stmatthewshollandpark.com/>

**Parish Private Facebook site** : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292308270851142> ; **Public Site:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556418523933> ; **Tipper's Treasure's Facebook site:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559040358754>

### ***ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY:***

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Turrbal and Jagera Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We acknowledge their continued spiritual connection to country and surrounding land, sky and water. We pay our respect to their Elders, past present and emerging and pray that we may continue to learn from and nurture one another in the spirit of Reconciliation.

