

Feast Day of St Matthias.     Acts 1: 15-17. 20-26             John 1: 9-17

Today we learn about the place of discernment, prayer, and the Commandment to love. These three formed the basis of Matthias' election as a replacement for Judas as an Apostle of Jesus.

Little is known about Matthias. But what is known is important. From early scripture, Peter, recognised the need to add to their number. The Job Description was clear. Someone who had followed Jesus from the beginning. Someone who knew Jesus personally and therefore be able to witness to his life and, particularly, his resurrection. Having prayed and discerned together, two 'followers' were identified for nomination. (These two may have been from the 72 sent out by Jesus in his early ministry) The resulting selection was decided by lot, an action typical of that time; And "The lot fell to Matthias."

The verses chosen from John's Gospel, form the basis of the 'Job Description' that Matthias was commissioned to. As an Apostle and follower of Jesus he was to follow the path that Jesus trod. It is the same path that we are asked to 'follow' in our own lives; To witness to Jesus' resurrection in following his Commandment to, 'Love one another as He loved and loves us.' And, in so doing, to "Go out and bear much fruit."

Simple really!!