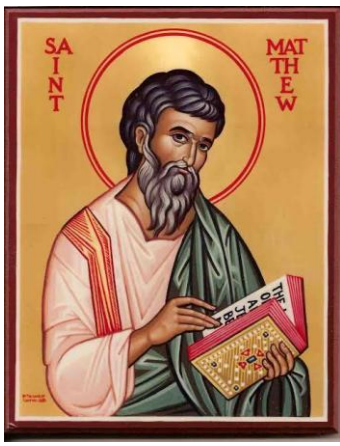




St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

The Apostle Matthew, also known as Saint Matthew and Levi, was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ. He is traditionally regarded as the author of the Gospel of Matthew. When Jesus called Matthew to follow him, he was a tax collector (or “publican”)— which was one of the most reviled professions in ancient Judaism. As a tax collector, Matthew’s job would have involved meticulously recording and documenting tax information. Jesus encountered Matthew at a tax booth in Capernaum—a city on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, which is likely the area where he was from.

Little is known about this apostle. Aside from a handful of mentions in the gospels, he’s a surprisingly obscure New Testament figure. And despite the fact that the church has long considered him the author of the Gospel of Matthew, little else was ever recorded about him.

While Matthew is honoured as a martyr, no one knows for sure where or how he died. Various accounts say he was beheaded, stoned, burned, or stabbed—one even suggests he died of natural causes like John.

There are legends about his ministry, but no substantial records of his role in the early church. Later apocryphal texts emerged claiming to be written by him, and some early church fathers supported these texts, but the works only survive in fragments and quotations, and modern scholarship is divided on their authorship.

Matthew is considered one of the “Four Evangelists.” This is a title reserved for Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—the traditional authors of the four Gospels. It comes from the Greek word *evangelion*, meaning “good news.” These four writers proclaimed the good news of Jesus Christ with their writings

The primary symbol of St. Matthew the Evangelist is a winged man or angel, Matthew's gospel starts with the genealogy of Joseph from Abraham; it represents the Incarnation of Jesus, and so Christ's human nature.

The figure highlights the Incarnation—the belief that God became human in Jesus.

The wings on the man signify that while the Gospel focuses heavily on Jesus' human story and earthly ancestry, the message itself originates from heaven.

His Feast Day is 21st September .