

Matthias

Born: 1st C. AD

Died: 80 AD

Feast Day:

14 May



**DERRY DIOCESAN
CATECHETICAL
CENTRE**

The first act of the apostles after the Ascension of Jesus was to find a replacement for Judas. Peter proposed that the new apostle should be someone who had been a disciple from the very beginning, from his baptism by John to his Ascension. The reason- the new apostle must become a witness to Jesus' resurrection. He must have believed in him when he spoke of the cross and of eating his body,- teachings that had made others disappear.

The disciples cast lots to choose between Matthias and Joseph called Barasabbas. His calling is unique. According to Acts, he had been with Jesus from his baptism by John until his Ascension. His appointment was not made by Jesus, personally and it was made before the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

The tradition of the Greeks says that Matthias first preached in Judaea. went to Cappadocia and the coasts of the Caspian to preach. Tradition says he was stoned but exact location is unclear.

It is claimed that Matthias' remains were brought to Italy through Empress Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine I (the Great); part of these relics would be interred in the Abbey of Santa Giustina, Padua, and the remaining in the Abbey of St. Matthias, Trier, Germany. According to Greek sources, the remains of the apostle are buried in the castle of Gonio-Apsaros, Georgia.

Matthias is patron of alcoholics; carpenters; tailors; Great Falls-Billings, Montana; smallpox; hope and perseverance