**The Collect and Readings appointed for St Matthew’s Day**

**September 21st**

O almighty God,
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax-collector
to be an apostle and evangelist:
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain
and the possessive love of riches
that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

**The Old Testament Reading is taken from Proverbs**

**Chapter 3, verses 13-18**

Blessed is the man who finds wisdom,
the man who gains understanding,
for she is more profitable than silver
and yields better returns than gold.
She is more precious than rubies;
nothing you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honour.
Her ways are pleasant ways,
and all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life to those who embrace her;
those who lay hold of her will be blessed.

**The New Testament Reading is taken from**

**St Matthew’s Gospel, chapter 9 verses 9-13**

As Jesus went on from there,

he saw a man named Matthew

sitting at the tax collector’s booth.

“Follow me,” he told him,

and Matthew got up and followed him.

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house,

many tax collectors and “sinners”

came and ate with him and his disciples.

When the Pharisees saw this,

they asked his disciples,

“Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?”

On hearing this, Jesus said,

“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

But go and learn what this means:

‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’

For I have not come to call the righteous,

but sinners.”