

No two days are the same at Turvey – or anywhere else. No two people are ever the same, here or anywhere else, and this could as well go for the rest of creation, too. So when the head of creation, Christ, comes looking for raw material with which to build his Church he has plenty of choice – plenty of raw material to choose from. By choosing such as Matthew, and eating with tax-collectors and other sinners, Jesus is in effect telling us that no one is without possibility: that everyone has the potential to be worked on and transformed by grace. But in Paul's letter to the Ephesians we are also told that this generic possibility works itself out in particular charisms or ministries. One could say that each of us, in our uniqueness, lend ourselves to a unique ministry or role in life. Where we perhaps go astray in our thinking here is to subvert or undermine the importance we *all* have in the building up of the Church, by emphasising some roles and some people as more important than others, and forgetting that charism is a gift and ministry is a service.

Another lesson we could read from this choice of Matthew and, as far as we can tell, of the other apostles, is that Jesus could have made life a lot easier for himself if he had chosen the more virtuous, the better-educated, those already in respected occupations. The story of the gospels often seems to be one of an exasperated Jesus looking at his raw material in despair. But this also says something about his own faith in the possibility of re-creation, of bringing order out of chaos or, better, of working with the essentially chaotic nature of creation to bring about an order, a beauty, a life-giving vibrancy which confounds all expectation. Through God's choice, we can all, then, become a new creation, which will confound, not only our critics, but ourselves too. We are in the realm of mystery once again – not a mystery that removes us from the creative process and the rest of creation, but is that process, is that creation most fully alive. It's a unique possibility, common to us all – in Christ.

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