

**16 September**

**Ninian**

**Bishop of Galloway,  
Apostle of the Picts, c.432**

Almighty and everlasting God, who called your servant Ninian to preach the gospel to the people of northern Britain: raise up in this and every land heralds and evangelists of your kingdom, that your Church may make known the immeasurable riches of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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**16 September**

**Ninian**

**Bishop of Galloway,  
Apostle of the Picts**

Ninian was born in about the year 360, the son of a Cumbrian chieftain who himself had converted to Christianity. It seems Ninian visited Rome in his youth, where he received training in the faith. He was consecrated Bishop in the year 394 and returned to Britain, setting up a community of monks at Candida Casa from where they went out on missionary journeys as far as Perth and Stirling. Ninian died in about the year 432.

*Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'*

**17 September**

**Hildegard  
Abbess of Bingen,  
Visionary, 1179**

Most glorious and holy God, whose servant Hildegard, strong in faith, was caught up in the vision of your heavenly courts: by the breath of your Spirit open our eyes to glimpse your glory and our lips to sing your praises with all the angels; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**17 September**

**Hildegard  
Abbess of Bingen,  
Visionary.**

Hildegard was born in 1098 at Böckelheim in Germany. From her earliest years she had a powerful, visionary life, becoming a nun at the age of eighteen. She was much influenced by her foster-mother, Jutta, who had set up the community and whom she succeeded as Abbess in 1136. Her visions of light, which she described as 'the reflection of the Living Light', deepened her understanding of God and creation, sin and redemption. They were, however accompanied by repeated illness and physical weakness. About twenty years later, she moved her sisters to a new abbey at Bingen. She travelled much in the Rhineland, founding a daughter house and influencing many, including the Emperor Frederick Barbarossa. She was a pastor and teacher, seeing herself as a 'feather on the breath of God'. She wrote three visionary works, a natural history and a medical compendium. She died on this day in the year 1179.

*Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'*

**20 September**

**John Coleridge Patteson  
First Bishop of Melanesia and his  
Companions, Martyrs 1871**

God of all tribes and peoples and tongues,  
who called your servant, John Coleridge  
Patteson to witness in life and death to the  
gospel of Christ amongst the peoples of  
Melanesia: grant us to hear your call to  
service and to respond trustfully and joyfully  
to Jesus Christ our redeemer, who is alive and  
reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

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**20 September**

**John Coleridge Patteson  
First Bishop of Melanesia and his  
Companions, Martyrs 1871**

Born in London in 1827, John Coleridge Patteson was still a scholar at Eton when he came under the influence of George Augustus Selwyn. Patteson was ordained and, in 1855 at the age of twenty-eight, left Britain to begin his life's work among the Islanders of the South Pacific, becoming their first Bishop. His system of evangelisation was to train local people in the hope that some would be ordained and so to equip them to share the gospel in a way that was within their own culture. This bore fruit and Christianity spread rapidly. Also working in Melanesia were 'thief ships' or 'blackbirders', essentially European slave-traders, who carried off Islanders to work in British and other colonies. When Patteson landed alone on the island of Nukapu in the hope of showing that not all white men were deceivers, he was killed, probably in revenge for the capture of five young men by the blackbirders. His fellow-workers were also attacked in their boat, two of them later dying of tetanus. John Coleridge Patteson and his companions gave their lives for the gospel on this day in the year 1871.

*Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'*

## 21 September

### Matthew

### Apostle and Evangelist

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.

Amen.

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## 21 September

### Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Matthew appears in the list of the twelve apostles of Jesus and, according to the gospel written under his name, was a tax-collector. Mark and Luke called the tax-collector Levi, and it has been assumed that they are one and the same. This occupation was despised by his fellow Jews as a betrayal to the occupying Roman force but Christ showed that judging by outward appearance was not what he was about. He ate with Matthew and with his friends, scandalising those around him. Matthew followed at his call and this was enough for Jesus, for he had drawn someone back to God. He was forgiven, therefore he was acceptable, therefore he was received.

*Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'*