

Season of Mists and Mellow fruitfulness..... (Keats, *Ode to Autumn*)

September may mark the beginning of the autumnal chills and the falling of the leaves, but for us at the Beda, as for so many universities and schools, it is the time of the great 'start up' when lists are compiled, stock-cupboards checked and we launch once more into the season of teaching and learning. Not of course that the learning ever stopped; although a term or an academic year may come to an end, we are constantly learning more about ourselves, about other and ultimately about God. We do this through the simple things of every day – the conversations, the care and the generosity with which we live our Christian vocations wherever we find ourselves and in whatever circumstances or state of life to which God has called us.

On the 2st of this month we keep the Feast of the Apostle and Gospel writer, Saint Matthew. In one of the churches here in Rome, Saint Louis of France, there is a painting by Caravaggio which depicts the calling of Matthew. The outstretched finger of Jesus beckons Levi (Matthew) who rather quizzically points a finger at himself as if to say 'Who? Me?'.

As we welcome our new students at seminary this month, they will no doubt be asking the same question – "Is it really me, Lord, who you are calling to serve you and your people in this way?" Our task is to be alongside them in their questioning, to guide them in their discernment and ultimately to rejoice in the generosity of God who calls each one of us according to our skills and talents to work in and for his great family, the Church.

Please pray for us – as we do for you.

