

POPE FRANCIS

The Gospel of Matthew

A Spiritual and Pastoral Reading

Foreword by Daniel P. Horan, OFM

ORBIS  BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York 10545

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.maryknollsociety.org.

English edition copyright © 2020 by Orbis Books.

Published by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.
All rights reserved.

Edited and adapted from the original Italian publication: *Matteo: Il Vangelo del compimento, Lettura spirituale e pastorale* © 2016 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Città del Vaticano.

The texts (homilies, meditations, speeches, Angelus, etc.) after the beginning of the pontificate are taken and adapted from: <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>. The Italian sources are listed in the bibliography and were translated by Orbis Books.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Francis, Pope, 1936- author.

Title: The Gospel of Matthew : a spiritual and pastoral reading / Pope Francis.

Other titles: Matteo. English

Description: English edition. | Maryknoll : Orbis Books, 2020. | Includes bibliographical references. | Summary: "Based on the Gospel of Matthew, this collection of written and oral sources of Pope Francis, a master of prayerful silence, guides us through the Gospel so that we may embrace a simple and living intimacy with Jesus, the Word made flesh"—Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019030846 (print) | LCCN 2019030847 (ebook) | ISBN 9781626983540 (paperback) | ISBN 9781608338191 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Bible. Matthew—Criticism, interpretation, etc.

Classification: LCC BS2575.52 .F7313 2020 (print) | LCC BS2575.52 (ebook) | DDC 226.2/0—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019030846>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019030847>

Contents

Foreword by Daniel P. Horan, OFM	vii
Introduction: The Word Is Fulfilled Today	xi
Chapter 1: Origins of Jesus	1
Chapter 2: The Magi	13
Chapter 3: John the Baptist	31
Chapter 4: Jesus's Public Life Begins	40
Chapter 5: The Sermon on the Mount	45
Chapter 6: Prayer	64
Chapter 7: A True Christian	77
Chapter 8: The Miracles of Jesus	90
Chapter 9: Compassion	96
Chapter 10: The Mission of the Disciples	108
Chapter 11: Jesus's Way	116
Chapter 12: Jesus and the Pharisees	126

CONTENTS

Chapter 13: The Parables	131
Chapter 14: Faith	141
Chapter 15: Encountering Jesus	149
Chapter 16: Who Is Jesus?	154
Chapter 17: The Transfiguration	162
Chapter 18: Who Is the Greatest?	166
Chapter 19: From Galilee to Judea	175
Chapter 20: The Margins	181
Chapter 21: Jerusalem	186
Chapter 22: The Greatest Commandment	198
Chapter 23: The Scribes and the Pharisees	206
Chapter 24: Persecution	211
Chapter 25: The Fullness of Life	216
Chapter 26: The Passion—Part 1	227
Chapter 27: The Passion—Part 2	232
Chapter 28: The Resurrection	238
Bibliography	245
Notes	247