

# SUNDAY PLUS



Be willing to share

## Attending to the present

by Fr Denis McBride  
C.Ss.R.

In today's Gospel the evangelist Mark shares Jesus' vision of the future. After the cosmic fireworks in Jesus' prophecy, Jesus imagines a peace beyond suffering. This vision of peace is important for Mark's persecuted community: they need more than a firework display to see them through their own historical time of turbulence. If their hope is not to be exhausted by the pain of the present, they need help to

imagine life beyond their current suffering and loss. Mark gives their hope help in sharing Jesus' vision. For that is the purpose of all apocalyptic writing: to fund the hope of those who suffer in the present.

In the meantime, we must depend on the promise of Jesus: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." No one, not even the Son, knows when all this will take place. The only sure thing we can hold to is the word of Jesus.

We live in an age of uncertainty: the future never looks wholly

secure. But Jesus holds out a vision that takes us beyond our worst imaginings. There is a place beyond the heat of battle and the conflict of war. And today we hold holy all those who fought for an end to conflict and war. We honour their sacrifice, particularly those who

laid down their lives so that others might live in freedom. We pray this day that the hopes of the fallen will not perish and that their sacrifice will not be in vain.

Fr Denis McBride's many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptorist Publications, [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk).

## They shall grow not old

by Robert Laurence Binyon

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them...

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,  
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,  
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known  
As the stars are known to the night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,  
As the stars that are stary in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Lord of peace, in the horrors of battlefield trenches, many combatants turned items of war into things of beauty. May we hear their message to look beyond conflict and to find and create loveliness even in the most difficult of circumstances. ☩ Amen.

### Feast of the week

Wednesday 17 November

## St Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-1231)

Born in the days of commonplace royal child marriages and short life-expectancy, St Elizabeth of Hungary was married at fourteen and widowed at twenty, already the mother of three children to a husband, Louis IV, Landgrave of Thuringia, whom she came to dearly love.

In 1223, at the age of sixteen, Elizabeth met Franciscan friars and, with her husband's approval, joined the lay branch of

the Franciscan Order. She made strenuous efforts to care for the poor people of the kingdom, building a hospital and even giving away royal treasures in order to provide for anybody in need.

Tongues wagged. People complained to Elizabeth's husband that she was stealing castle treasures. One day, when she was taking bread to some poor people nearby and to quieten the gossips, Louis asked her what was hidden in her cloak. Elizabeth opened it and everyone saw not bread but red and white roses – which explains why Elizabeth is always portrayed as carrying roses.

"I see the Church as a field hospital after battle. It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars. You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else."

Pope Francis

Today:  
Daniel 12:1-3  
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18  
Mark 13:24-32

Monday:  
1 Maccabees 1:10-15.  
41-43, 54-57, 62-64  
Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday:  
2 Maccabees  
6:18-31  
Luke 19:1-10

(S): St Margaret (Feast):  
Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20.  
30-31 or 1 Corinthians  
12:31 - 13:13  
Matthew 25:31-46

Wednesday:  
2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31  
Luke 19:11-28

Thursday:  
1 Maccabees  
2:15-29  
Luke 19:41-44

Friday:  
1 Maccabees  
4:36-37, 52-59  
Luke 19:45-48

Saturday:  
1 Maccabees  
6:1-13  
Luke 20:27-40

Next Sunday:  
Daniel 7:13-14  
Apocalypse 1:5-8  
John 18:33-37

