

# SUNDAY PLUS

True family

## New family

By Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

**Y**ou can search the Gospel of Mark for a portrait of “The Holy Family” but you will not find one. Mark’s portrait of Jesus’ family is a negative one, as we hear in today’s Gospel: Jesus’ own family think that he is out of his mind. When Mark opens the story of Jesus, he shows Jesus leaving home in Nazareth to make a four-day journey south to seek out the wilderness prophet, John the Baptist. Jesus is so impressed by this great preacher, who is attracting thousands of people from the holy city of Jerusalem, that Jesus submits to the baptism of John.

That event marks a dramatic change in Jesus’ life as he begins a new vocation as a teacher and

prophet, leaving behind his former career as a village carpenter. So, when he returns home to Nazareth, he presents himself differently in a way that deeply puzzles the people who know him. And he does not return alone: wherever Jesus goes there seems to be an emergency ward following in his wake. Now he returns with his disciples, a group unknown in Nazareth. His relatives hear of the commotion and they set out to take charge of him.

The relatives want Jesus to follow the familiar script that they know: Jesus as the local carpenter. But Jesus has moved away from that script so he redefines his family: not his blood relatives but those who follow the will of God, as Jesus himself struggles to do. That is Jesus’ new script which he will follow for the rest of his life.

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



Loving Lord, watch over, protect and guide my family and all those whom I know and love. Let us grow closer to you and to each other.  
 Amen.

## Families are fabulous!

By Krista Nelson

Reminiscing: is there anything that reminds a family more of their special bond than going down Memory Lane (especially when the photos appear)?

Maybe the kids have been squabbling or ignoring each other all day. But mention something around the dinner table about a past holiday long ago and when the stories come flowing out you can almost tangibly

feel their bond strengthening — their shared journey and memories have made a connection that can’t be broken. Those special moments warm the heart and remind us of what it means to be a family.

But it’s not just within a traditional family that happens. I’m sure you’ve experienced it with school friends, colleagues or even with your brothers and sisters in Christ in your parish (perhaps reminiscing about retreats or former parish priests). Reminiscing about our shared journeys reminds us of the strength of our family bonds — bonds that become harder to break with life’s little ups and downs.

*Krista Nelson is a mum of four, catechist and editor.*

How do we keep our faith as a family? Do we keep it for ourselves, in our families, as a personal treasure like a bank account, or are we able to share it by our witness, by our acceptance of others, by our openness?

Pope Francis

Feast of the week  
 Monday 10 June

## St Margaret of Scotland (1045-1093)

Born in 1045, Margaret grew up in the court of Edward the Confessor, her great-uncle. With the Norman invasion, and as one of the last of the Anglo-Saxon royalty, she tried to escape to her mother’s country of Hungary but was shipwrecked off the Scottish coast. King Malcolm III offered her refuge in Scotland, eventually marrying Margaret in 1070 and making her his queen. Of their eight children, one son became King David I. Their daughter Maud married Henry I and became Queen of England.

Margaret’s countless good works, frugality, prayerfulness, good works and generous concern for poor people made her the inspiration and role model for her husband Malcolm.

As John Paul II once said, “We may look to the shining example of St Margaret of Scotland for confirmation that what is done for the least of our brothers and sisters is done for Christ himself.”  
 No wonder Scotland is proud of her!

Today:  
 Genesis 3:9-15  
 2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1  
 Mark 3:20-35

Monday:  
 1 Kings 17:1-6  
 Matthew 5:1-12

Tuesday:  
 Acts 11:21-26;  
 13:1-3  
 Matthew 10:7-13

Wednesday:  
 1 Kings 18:20-39  
 Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday:  
 1 Kings 18:41-46  
 Matthew 5:20-26

Friday:  
 1 Kings 19:9, 11-16  
 Matthew 5:27-32

Saturday:  
 1 Kings 19:19-21  
 Matthew 5:33-37

Next Sunday:  
 Ezekiel 17:22-24  
 2 Corinthians 5:6-10  
 Mark 4:26-34