



St Margaret of Hungary (1242 – 1271) Daughter of King Bela IV, became a Dominican novice at twelve in a royal convent. Although she was a princess among nuns who were of noble descent, she objected to any special treatment and went out of her way to perform the most menial tasks.

First Reading: (Heb 5:1-10) Every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honour upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee”; as he says also in another place, “Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated

by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Ps 109:1-4

R. / You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.

Gospel: (Mk 2:18-22) One day John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, “Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; if he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; if he does, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but new wine is for fresh skins.”

REFLECTION

Jesus’ view of religion was that of a wedding celebration and not of a mourning at a funeral parlor. **He wanted his disciples to celebrate God, and celebrate life.** The Pharisees on the other hand viewed religion as a set of burdensome rules to be followed with grumpy faces. Jesus gives his disciples a NEW commandment to love one another. He equates Love of God to Love of neighbour. For the Pharisees this was an anathema. The Newness of Jesus can be seen in his reaching out to the outcast, the sick, the suffering, the lost and the least. He considered them as worthy of God’s love; while the Pharisees saw them as already condemned and hopeless.

Jesus is the New wine and this new wine can be received successfully only by those who are open to this new teaching. Are we old wineskins or new wineskins?