

Hungarian Saints

Saint Margaret of Scotland (1045 – 1093)



She was Queen of Scotland with a Hungarian origin. Mother of Margaret of Scotland was Agatha of Hungary, who was related to Gisela, wife of St. Stephen of Hungary. She was the sister of Edgar Atheling, the short-ruling and uncrowned Anglo-Saxon King of England. She came to England with the rest of her family when her father, Edward, was recalled in 1057 as a possible successor to her great-uncle, the childless Edward the Confessor. Her father died soon after the family's arrival in England. In 1068 Edgar, Margaret, Cristina and their mother Agatha fled north to Northumbria.

The widowed Agatha decided to leave Northumbria with her children and return to the continent. However, a storm drove their ship north to Scotland, where they sought the protection of King Malcolm III. The spot where they are said to have landed is known today as St. Margaret's Hope. The marriage of Malcolm and Margaret took place sometime before the end of 1070. Malcolm followed it with several invasions of Northumberland, probably in support of the claims of his brother-in-law Edgar. These, however, had little result beyond the devastation of the province.

Margaret and Malcolm had eight children, six sons and two daughters. Margaret attended to charitable works, and personally served orphans and the poor every day before she ate. She rose at midnight to attend church services every night. She was known for her work for religious reform.

She died on November 16, 1093 four days after her husband was died in the war against England.

She was canonized in 1261, her feast celebrated at November 16.