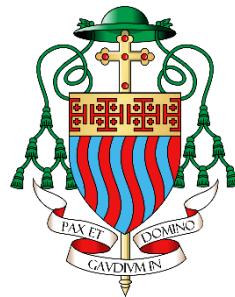


**Message for Bexhill Parish
Feast Day of St. Martha 2020
80th Anniversary of the Church**



Dear brothers and sisters,

Today, the Feast of St. Martha, is the appropriate day to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of St. Martha's Church. In more straightforward times, I am sure, there would have been great jubilation today and although the restrictions arising from Covid-19 might reduce possibilities, I do encourage you to celebrate with a little extra festivity, both in the church and at home.

St. Martha is an example for us. She busied herself with care for Jesus in the welcome she offered in her home. We must welcome Jesus in the home that is our heart, opening the doors of our lives to the wonders of his love for us.

Her encounters with the Lord brought out in her a deep faith. At the death of her brother she says: "If you had been here, my brother would not have died but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God he will grant you." She believes in Jesus: "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world."

The deep conviction of Martha's faith in the person of Jesus is surely an encouragement for us all. For a community that has Martha as its patron, look to the future with confidence in the person of Jesus and in the wonder of all that he shares with us in the life of the Church and may you be blessed in all that lies ahead.

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