

Novena Prayers to the Feast of St Martha

Our Help is in the Name of the Lord...

... Who made Heaven and Earth.

- 20th July: St Martha with her sister Mary and her brother Lazarus lived in Bethany were friends of Jesus, offering him hospitality when he visited Jerusalem.
- 21st July: Jesus entered a village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.
- 22nd July: Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me!'
- 23rd July: 'Martha, Martha', the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her'.
- 24th July: When Martha heard that Jesus had come, she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, '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.'
- 25th July: 'Your brother', said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know that he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.'
- 26th July: 'Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord', she said, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into the world'.
- 27th July: Six days before the Passover, Jesus went to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom he had raised from the dead. They gave a dinner for him there: Martha waited on them, and Lazarus was among those at table.
- 28th July: May the example of your Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus spur us onto a better life as we deepen our hope in Christ, who is the '*Resurrection and the Life*'.

Let us pray: Almighty ever-living God, whose Son was pleased to be welcomed in Saint Martha's house as a guest, grant we pray, that through her intercession, serving Christ faithfully in our brothers and sisters, we may merit to be received by you in the halls of heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...