



Vox Populi

25 July 2024

Next Monday, we celebrate the lives of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, the patron saints of siblings.

Their story is about trusting God even when things seem impossible.

All three were close friends of Jesus.

Saint Martha is most well-known for her strong faith in Jesus after her brother's death. Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world" (John 11:25-27).

Saint Martha loved to host Jesus and prepare meals for Him, whereas Saint Mary loved to listen to His words. Mary's anointing of Jesus' feet at Bethany, one act that He praised highly, is also described in John 12:1-8.

Saint Lazarus was killed by the chief priests because of his strong belief in Jesus. Lazarus was the one of whom the Jews said, "See how much he loved him." Upon his death, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

Their faithfulness is truly inspiring! As are the lives of all the saints, a number of whom we celebrate in upcoming weeks including St Peter Chrysologus on 30 July, St Ignatius Loyola on 31 July, St Alphonsus Liguori on 1 August, St Dominic on 3 August, the Transfiguration of the Lord on 6 August and on 8 August we celebrate Australia's first saint, St Mary of the

Cross MacKillop.

We do not worship the saints but pray to them to intercede for us in their role as instruments of God.

Ordinary people who became extraordinary human beings thanks to their faith in God and their surrender to His loving will, saints are ideal role models for us.

Their faith was a gift that they received with open hearts so that Jesus' promise of eternal life could be fulfilled in them.