

Reflection Friday Week 17 Sts Martha, Mary & Lazarus 2022

Martha was the sister of Mary of Bethany and Lazarus. In the West, her feast day comes a week after that of St Mary Magdalene because of the old and probably erroneous tradition that Mary Magdalene was the same person as Martha's sister. Modern scholarship having made matters clearer. Since 2021, Martha, Mary and Lazarus have been celebrated together on this day, formerly assigned to Martha alone.

Love is a many splendid things the song suggests and it is expressed in all sorts of different ways. While Mary is a contemplative, reflecting on the love of Jesus, Martha's love is very up front, personal and vocal. Her complete faith and trust in Jesus is expressed in her saying that "Jesus is *the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.*" Nor is Martha afraid of challenging Jesus. One cannot help but think that Lazarus was raised from the dead because of Mary's faith. It also responds indicates her love of Jesus and Jesus' love for her.

St John: *If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him, and he in God... God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him.*

Pope Francis: *"To love like Jesus means offering yourself in service to your brothers and sisters, as Jesus did in washing the feet of the disciples. It also means going outside ourselves, detaching ourselves from our own human certainties, from earthly comforts, in order to open ourselves to others, especially those in greater need. It means making ourselves available, as we are and with what we have."*

A patient goes to his doctor and says, "Doctor the first medicine you've written in the prescription is not available anywhere. I've been to almost all the Chemists.

Doctor: Oh! That's not a medicine. I was just scribbling to check if the pen was working or not!!