

# Martha & Mary of Bethany

## Loyal followers of Jesus...



*Christ in the House of Martha and Mary,*  
Johannes Vermeer

The exchange between Jesus, Martha and Mary in Luke's gospel is a frequently recounted incident, often used to contrast busyness and stillness – Martha is busy serving, while Mary sits quietly listening to Jesus, and the sparks fly! Yet there are two other accounts, in John's gospel, involving Martha and Mary, that present additional insights into their faith and actions.

First: It is their brother Lazarus whom Jesus returns to life four days after his death, leading to the well-known words from Martha: 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

Second: It is Mary, this Mary, who washes Jesus' feet with fine oils prior to the Passover, a remarkable action that incurred the criticism of Judas.

These women (and their brother Lazarus) were close followers of Jesus. Our day of reflection and prayer will look at the three gospel accounts and see what they might tell us about two faith-filled women who were such loyal followers of Jesus that two gospels include accounts of their words and actions.

Women of all Christian denominations are welcome to join the women of New Norcia parish for a day of fellowship, reflection and prayer, where we will explore the lives of two inspiring women introduced to us in the gospels of Luke and John – Martha and Mary of Bethany.

- Date**                    **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 10.00 – 3.00 (morning tea at 9.30)**
- Venue**                    **New Norcia Institute of Benedictine Studies building (opposite side of road to Abbey Church)**
- Catering**                **There is no charge for attendance, but if you can bring a plate for a shared lunch, that will be appreciated**
- To register**              **Please email Carmel at [carmelmo8@bigpond.com](mailto:carmelmo8@bigpond.com) or call 0408 124404 by Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June.**