

Celebrating

MOTHER'S DAY 2020

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I thought this Mother's Day would be special.

My only daughter who left home at an early age - even before marriage - had been living overseas the past 20 years. She and her husband finally returned and settled in Singapore at the end of last year. All through the years, even though we lived apart, we had a very close mother-daughter relationship, for which I am grateful to God.

However, because of the distance, there were some things we never got to enjoy together as a family; things people take for granted - like regular get-togethers or family meals. In her time away, my daughter had become an excellent cook. How she learnt the skill in both oriental and western cuisines (my son-in-law is an Englishman) is beyond my understanding, as those who know me know that I cannot cook.

So it was only in recent months that we established a weekly rhythm - I would go to their home, she would cook, we would have lunch together, followed by rounds of Rummikub (good for keeping dementia at bay!). I was happy and content.

For Mothers' Day this year, my son-in-law had bought a 3kg leg of lamb, and they were going to prepare a lamb roast to celebrate the special day with me. Then - the circuit breaker lockdown was extended, and I will now be spending Mothers' Day alone. But I know I am not alone, for God is with me.

For those of you who have the privilege of your mothers living with you, praise God! You can still have a wonderful celebratory meal together, whether home-cooked or Deliveroo'd.

So how can we celebrate Mothers' Day during this Covid-19 circuit breaker period, when everyone has to stay home, and those who do not live with their mothers cannot even visit them? This can be a stressful time for many who are not used to being at home with the whole family 24/7 - tensions build

up, tempers flare, and siblings get irritated with one another. Mothers especially bear the brunt of it; having to work from home, supervising their children's home-based learning, and coping with the increased housework.

Here is a great idea and heart-warming story I would like to share. My friend's grand-daughter was turning one, and had it not been for Covid-19, they would have had a big family celebration. So instead, she whipped up a feast of family favourites, delivered the food to each home, and they all had a Zoom party for the one-year old. What a creative expression of a mother's love!

Happy Mother's Day!!

Dear Lord, thank you for giving us mothers to love and care for us. On this Mothers' Day, we pray your special blessing for all mothers, that you will continue to keep and strengthen them, and give them Your shalom peace and joy daily. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



From left: Patricia Williams, Daphne Williams, Philip Williams, Patricia Aw

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Ps 118:24