



MANGERS FOR THIS *Christmas*

Christmas is round the corner.

As most of our friends are SG-bound and with the cut down on events and parties, this is a good season to “think small.” It will be a wonderful opportunity to spread Christmas cheer and hope through a “Christmas@Home” party, whether it is for 5 or 8 guests.

Think about some carol singing, a short Christmas message, gifts exchange and of course, a meal together. You can even organise 2 to 3 dinners. Keep an eye for non-Singaporeans who will be missing home during this season. Meals don’t need to be lavish. I always find the usual Christmas dinners to be easier to prepare as many of the main courses can be bought, such as ham or turkey. Roasts are not difficult to do if you know how to cook. And why not whip up some delicious curries for our own local twists?

The main thing is about company and through that, for our guests to experience the love of Christ.

I have shared this before but it is worth repeating here. I grew up in a family which was very far from anything Christian. My first peek into this strange religion was through visiting a Christian family during Christmas. I was intrigued by presents under the Christmas tree and the idea of receiving them. I have since become aware that some of these Christmas traditions

have pagan roots but as with all things, they were “christianised” over time as communities fit their new found faith with their community traditions. If you really think about it, these are happening to some extent even in our cultures.

And indeed, I encountered the seed ideas of giving, love and joy through Christmas.

This is why I always love Christmas. Sigh, this year will be very different from previous ones. Christmas@Cathedral will be reduced to the essentials. Perhaps it is not a bad thing to go back again to the simplicity and essence of Christmas.

Let every carol burst in your heart with joy and worship. Let every friend know that the Saviour was born. Like the first Christmas observed by a small company in a humble manger, may the few gather to worship the King.

May every home be a manger during this season.

