

# Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on different days in many parts of the world, most commonly in March or May. It complements similar celebrations honoring family members. This year, 2025, Mother's Day will be celebrated on 11 May in the US.

In the 19th century in the British Isles, "Mothering Sunday" was celebrated on the fourth Sunday in Lent, a practice which continues in the present day. On this day, clerics and curates were encouraged to use the time at their disposal to visit their original mother churches.

While other countries also have a multi-century history of a day to celebrate mothers, the modern American version of the holiday began in the US in the early 20th century at the initiative of Anna Jarvis. She organized the first Mother's Day service of worship and celebration at Andrews Meth-

odist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia, which serves as the International Mother's Day Shrine today. It is not directly related to the many

traditional celebrations of mothers and motherhood having existed throughout the world over thousands of years, such as the Greek cult to Cybele, the mother deity Rhea, the Roman festival of Hilaria, or the other Christian ecclesiastical Mothering Sunday celebration (associated with the image of Mother Church). However, in some countries,

Mother's Day is still synonymous with these older traditions.

The American version of Mother's Day has been criticized for having become too commercialized. Jarvis herself, who began the celebration as a liturgical observance, regretted this commercialism and expressed it was never her intention. In response, Constance Smith successfully advocated for Mothering Sunday as a commemoration of a broader definition of motherhood.



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