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# HELVEEDIA

Magazine for the members of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc  
Helvetia is in its 78th year

May 2012

## Mother's Day, 13<sup>th</sup> May

Celebrations of mothers and motherhood occur throughout the world; many of these can be traced back to ancient festivals, like the Greek cult of Cybele, the

countries, it is potentially offensive to one's mother not to mark Mother's Day. In others, it is a little-known festival celebrated mainly by immigrants, or covered

The tradition of gift giving to mothers on Mother's Day in Australia was started by Mrs Janet Heyden, a resident of Sydney, in 1924. She began the tradition during a visit to a patient at the Newington State Home for Women, where she met many lonely and forgotten mothers. To cheer them up, she rounded up support from local school children and businesses to donate and bring gifts to the women. Every year thereafter, more support was raised by Mrs Heyden with local businesses and even the local Mayor. The day has since become commercialized. Traditionally, the Chrysanthemum is given to mothers for mother's day as the flower is naturally in season during autumn and ends in 'mum'.



Chrysanthemum

Roman festival of Hilaria or the Christian Mothering Sunday celebration.

Mother's Day is a celebration honouring mothers and celebrating motherhood, maternal bonds and the influence of mothers in society. In most countries, Mother's Day is a recent observance derived from the holiday as it is celebrated in America. When it was adopted by other countries and cultures, it was given different meanings and celebrated on a different date or dates. The extent of the celebrations varies greatly. In some

by the media as a taste of foreign culture.

In the Roman-Catholic Church, the holiday is strongly associated with reverencing the Virgin Mary. In many Catholic homes, families have a special shrine devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary. In many Eastern Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches, a special prayer service is held in honour of the Theotokos Virgin Mary.

In most western countries, Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in May. It is not a public holiday, nor is it known as a holiday.

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