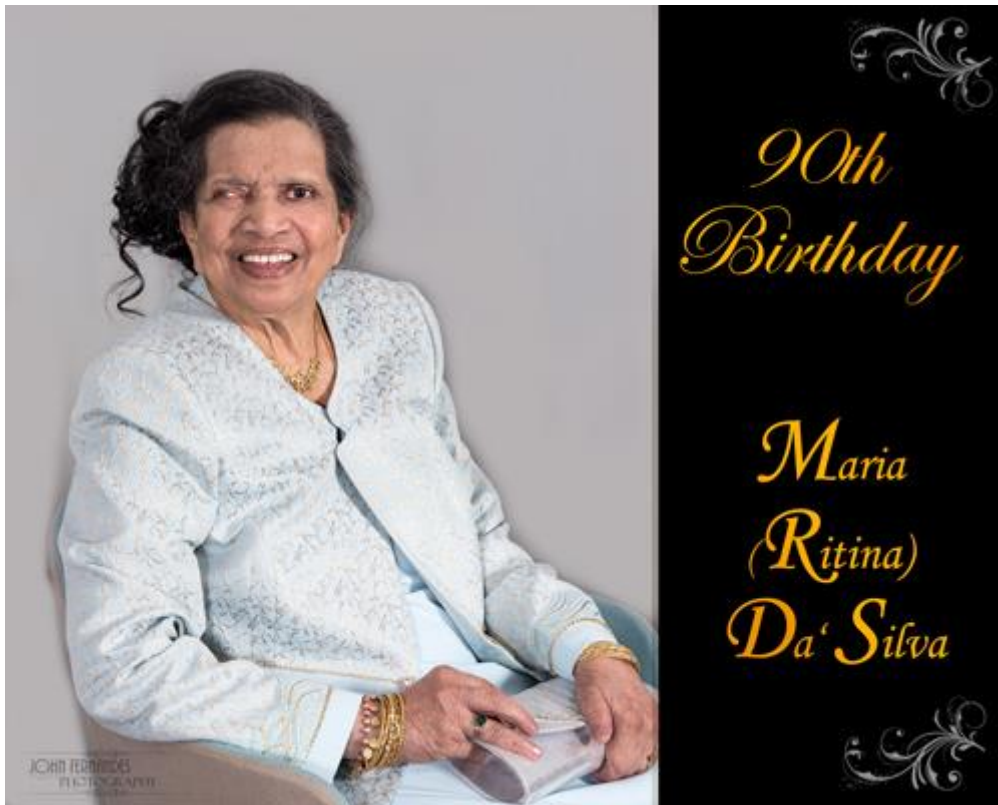


Maria Da Silva's 90th Birthday



Happy 90th Birthday to our Loving Mum

Maria Josefina Da Silva, (nee Barreto) was born in Fatorda, Goa on 1st November 1927. Maria has fond memories of a happy and young life in Goa, working in the rice paddy fields, supporting the family dairy with delivering milk to families in Fatorda and walking from Fatorda to Old Goa during the St Francis Xavier novenas and feast celebrations.

Maria, also fondly known as Ritina, married a tall handsome Navelkar, a tailor living in Mombasa, Rosario Da Silva in 1946. They were blessed with eleven children, Seby, Rose, Cresencia Luis, Joanita, Henrequetta, Antonetta, Cyrila, Xavier, Sukor and Mary (photos below).



The Da Silva family lived in various residences in Makadara, opposite the Goan Tailors Society, in town near the Tusks, near Uhuru Garden etc. Maria was warmly appreciated for her excellent scrumptious Goan catering for travellers to the coast, Goan functions, specialty pilau and sorpotel and a daily lunch tiffin for young busy families.

Mombasa life was full of twists and turns with some great times, being cherished around St Francis Xavier feast celebrations. Proud memories include Maria's first born, Seby playing professional football for Feisal, and Rose getting married to Seby Fernandes in Nairobi.

Maria's eldest children were settled in North London, Haringey. Maria, Rosario and the remaining young Da Silvas followed and enjoyed their first cold frosty Christmas in 1980 with the family all reunited in the beautiful city of London. Maria has been a pillar of the

family and Christmas lunch remains a great family day with 18 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Maria's strong Catholic faith has seen her make numerous pilgrimages to Lourdes and Fatima. Holidays have included regular travels to Goa with her travel mate aunty Ruzard during the 80s/90s, and with family having great memories in the Da Silva Goa bases, Happy Home Apts in Goa and Villa Maria in Florida Gardens Colva. Maria has clear happy memories of her trips to Mombasa and Canada for relatives' weddings and catching up with extended family and friends.

An inspiration to many, a deep Catholic faith, hardworking, strong family values and Goan culture strength have enabled Maria to reach this amazing 90th birthday. Mum has drawn strength, motivation and energy from all of her eleven children, their spouses, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Of limited education herself, Maria proudly awaits news of exam results, University successes and loves listening to her family's career successes and achievements.

Last weekend started the birthday celebrations with family, relatives from Mombasa, New Delhi, Toronto, and very close UK friends, at the Mercure hotel in Watford. Sunday's party initiated a great 90th birthday week and mum was so happy and energized seeing everyone enjoying themselves with her family. All of these happy moments have paved the way for today's celebrations which will include lunch at The Shard in London, a mass in Konkani and dinner at Seymour Road in the evening.

Our mum is very special to us all and we are so overjoyed that she has been blessed to have reached the milestone 90th birthday. The Da Silva family take this opportunity to thank all those near and far for all their good wishes, telephone calls, visits at Seymour Road and in various hospitals over the years. We are relaying all your messages, photos and video clips of Sunday's party to Mum, please continue to drop them into Luis email luis.dasilva1@blueyonder.co.uk and Luis WhatsApp number 07835200917- all of your messages are really making her smile!

