

My favourite Christmas meal

We always have this meal on Christmas Eve, at around 5p.m. and it is a time to be together as a family and start our Christmas celebrations.

Before the meal is even served, the house is filled with delicious aromas. As I wait to be called to the table, my tummy rumbles with excitement and anticipation. The table is laid with a neat tablecloth, deep red placemats, and the shining silver cutlery that we only ever use on special occasions. Glasses are ready for drinks to be poured, sparkling in the candlelight. Finally, I hear the magical words... "Dinner is ready"!

Crackers are pulled, hats are carefully unfolded, and the feast begins. In the middle of the table are 5 bowls, each one full to the top with different vegetables. Bright orange carrots, Brussels sprouts that have been carefully cut in half, golden parsnips, cauliflower that looks like a pile of fluffy clouds, and a steaming mountain of roast potatoes. On my plate are three slices of juicy white turkey in addition to several small sausages wrapped in crispy bacon. We all start to help ourselves to the piping-hot food, piling our plates high. The finishing touches are a river of gleaming, silky-smooth gravy, and a dollop of ruby-red cranberry sauce. At last, we can begin.

The first bite of potato, turkey and cranberry sauce makes flavours explode in my mouth. Soft, cool tangy cranberries mix with the hot crunchy potato as the fluffy centre is revealed. Turkey and gravy combine with these flavours to create an indescribable feeling of joy! I look around at my family because for a moment I have forgotten they are with me. Everyone is silent except for a little "mmm" of appreciation every now and then. We smile and nod at each other, our mouths full of the most wonderful meal of the year.