

The Twelve Days of Christmas

'The Twelve Days of Christmas' is an English Christmas carol. From 1558 until 1829, Catholics in England were not permitted to practise their faith openly so the story is that someone wrote this as a catechism song for young Catholics. This history has been challenged but, usefully, the carol does have two levels of meaning: a surface meaning and a hidden meaning known only to those in the know. Each number in the carol is seen as a religious teaching for children to remember. To the Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), early Catholic bibles add three (those in brackets) which are similar. The **'True Love'** is not a boyfriend or girlfriend but **Jesus Christ**, because Love was truly born at Christmas Day. The partridge in the pear tree also represents him, because that bird, it is said, is willing to sacrifice its life to protect its young, feigning injury to draw away predators.

According to Ann Ball (*Handbook of Catholic Sacraments*):

The **two** turtle doves were the **Old and New Testaments**.

The **three** French hens stood for **Faith, Hope, and Love**.

The **four** calling birds were the **Four Gospels**, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The **five** golden rings represented the **First Five Books of the Old Testament**, which describe man's fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Saviour.

The **six** geese a-laying stood for the **Six Days of Creation**.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the **Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit**----

Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

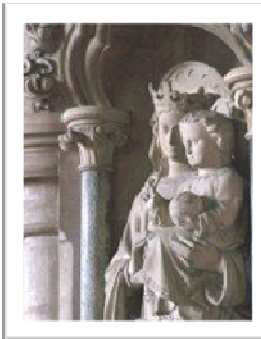
The **eight** maids a-milking were the **Eight Beatitudes**.

Nine ladies dancing were the **Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit**, Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience [Forbearance], Goodness [Kindness], Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty, Continuity [Chastity].

The **ten** lords a-leaping were the **Ten Commandments**.

The **eleven** pipers piping stood for the **Eleven Faithful Apostles**.

The **twelve** drummers drumming symbolized the **Twelve Articles of Belief in the Apostles' Creed**.



St Edmund Campion Deanery, Old Berkshire-
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EAST HENDRED CATHOLIC PARISH

St Mary's Church, East Hendred
St Patrick's Church, East Ilsley

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CHRISTMAS EVE Tuesday 25 th CHRISTMAS DAY	NATIVITY OF THE LORD [CHRISTMAS] [GOLD] Crib Service: 4pm St Mary's Office of Readings and First Mass: of Christmas: 8pm St Mary's Sung Mass: 9.30am St Mary's, East Hendred Pro populo Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's, East Ilsley Pro populo
Wednesday 26 th December	St Stephen, Protomartyr [red] Mass: 11am St Mary's [<i>Archconfraternity of St Stephen</i>]
Thursday 27 th December	St John, Apostle, Evangelist [white] Mass: 9.15am St Mary's RIP Irene Raymont (Stephen McDonagh)
Friday 28 th December	The Holy Innocents [red] Mass: 8.30am Hendred House Holy Souls
Saturday 29 th December	St Thomas of Canterbury, Martyr [red] <i>No Mass at St Mary's</i>
Sunday 30 th December	THE HOLY FAMILY [white] Mass: 9.30am St Mary's Pro populo Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's Pro populo
Monday 31 st December	<i>In the Octave of Christmas</i> [white] Mass: 9.15am St Mary's
Tuesday 1st January	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD [WHITE] Mass: 9.30am St Mary's Pro populo
Wednesday 2 nd January	SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors [white] Mass: 9.15am St Mary's
Thursday 3 rd January	<i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i> [white] Mass: 9.15am St Mary's
Friday 4 th January	<i>In Christmastide</i> [white] Mass: 12.15pm St Mary's
Saturday 5 th January	<i>In Christmastide</i> [white] Mass: 9.30am St Mary's [<i>Latin</i>]
Sunday 6th January EPIPHANY	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD [GOLD] Sung Mass: 9.30am St Mary's, East Hendred Pro populo Sung Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's, East Ilsley Pro populo

THIS WEEK AND LOOKING AHEAD

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Please come and join us in St Mary's Parish rooms after the Mass on Christmas Eve for a celebration with drinks and nibbles.

GATHERING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, **January 8th**. We meet in the parish rooms at 7.30pm and finish between 8.30 and 9.00. For more information contact Denis Smith; 01235 765564; djbm.smith@ntlworld.com.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Classes will resume on **Thursday 17th January** at 4.30pm

MUMS ON THE RUN

The next meeting is on **Monday (21st January)** at 8.15pm in the Holy Family Room. If you are a mum raising children, who would like a bit of time to chat and reflect with other mothers, please come along to these meetings. For more information, please contact Gillian at gilliangroeger@hotmail.com

CHILDREN LITURGY GROUP

The children liturgy will resume after the Christmas school holidays. In the meantime there will be some resources for children available in the Holy family room on Sundays.

CATHOLIC TV CHANNEL ON LINE | Go to <https://www.ewtn.com/multimedia/live.asp>

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

World Gifts are CAFOD's alternative charity gifts that transform lives. Unusual charity gifts, ethical presents that will delight your friends and family. Perfect for Baptisms, birthdays and anniversaries. You can choose a unique, virtual gift that will make a real difference to a family in poverty!! More details at www.worldgifts.cafod.org.uk

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Our Christmas Offering is for the personal use of Fr Andrew, forming part of his income. If you are a tax payer, please use the gift aid envelopes which are at the back of the church.

FORTHCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

20th January 2019: Cathedral

COFFEE AFTER MASS

During the winter, coffee after Mass will be in the Holy Family Room. Please proceed by way of the outside path..

Find us on  

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

BAPTISM AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.



THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

Sr Catherine, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Alfie Bartlam, Jadyga Adasko, Angus Clark and Maria Wysocki-Jones. Names remain for four weeks.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Those who have died recently and those with anniversaries at this time: *Kathleen Cavan, Sybil Clerk, May Mulford, Mary Throckmorton, Beatrice Scrope, Patrick Rush, Joseph Leahy, Peggy Bray, Cyril Charlton, Mary Wallington, Isaac Ellaway, Alfred Dixey, Bertha Northcote, Agnes Mary Western, Minnie Cuman and Joseph Bray.*

HOLY FATHER'S DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION - Evangelization – *In the Service of the Transmission of Faith.* That people, who are involved in the service of the transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

MONASTIC EXPERIENCE WEEKEND AT QUARR ABBEY

Designed to give single Catholic men aged 18-35 the opportunity to sample monastic life, as it is led at Quarr Abbey in the Benedictine tradition of the Solesmes Congregation. It will be of particular interest to those wanting to explore the possibility of a vocation. **Friday 8th (evening) - Sunday 10th March 2019.** Please see information in church.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Save the dates for the Pilgrimage to Lourdes next summer, from the **25th to 30th July 2019.** More details coming soon at www.portsmouthdiocese.co.uk.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Wednesdays 15th-22nd May 2019. Cost: £1360pp. Flights from Heathrow. Deposit £250pp. Led by Canons John O'Shea & Michael Dennehy. Apply to St James Church, Reading on 0118 957 4171 or email stjames@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. ONLY a few places left.

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE DON BOSCO CAMP 2019

28th July - 3rd August 2019 an opportunity for secondary school boys to have an exciting, activity-packed camping holiday in a safe but challenging countryside setting. For more information please visit www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/youth/donbosco and contact: dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

Please complete the registration form (yellow or green sheets at the back of the church). The information you provide is strictly confidential and of great help for Fr Andrew's ministry.