

The Origin of the Twelve Days of Christmas

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas"; to most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written.

It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts.

Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law - private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic.

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith .

The songs gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The other symbols mean the following:

- 2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments
- 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
- 4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
- 5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
- 6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation
- 7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
- 8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes
- 9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments
- 11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed



The Reminder

Sunday 25th December 2011
The Nativity of Our Lord
Year B

Holy Souls' Presbytery
Frodingham Road
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN15 7TA

Holy Souls' Catholic Church

Mass Timetable for the Week

| <i>Day</i> | <i>Time</i> | <i>Intention</i> |
|--|---|---|
| Saturday 24th December 2011 <i>Advent Feria</i> | No 9.30 am Mass 10.30 am No 5.30 pm 7.30 pm 10.00 pm Polish Midnight | - Brother Gabriel Intentions No Winterton Mass People of the Parish Polish Priest's Intentions People of the Parish |
| Sunday 25th December 2011 <i>The Nativity of Our Lord</i> | 10.00 am 5.00 pm Polish | People of the Parish Polish Priest's Intentions |
| Monday <i>St Stephen</i> | 9.30 am 11.00 am Polish | Michael Doyle RIP Polish Priest's Intentions |
| Tuesday <i>St John</i> | 9.30 am | Patrick Cooney and deceased relatives |
| Wednesday <i>The Holy Innocents</i> | 9.30 am Polish | Polish Priest's Intentions |
| Thursday - St Thomas of Canterbury | 9.30 am | Jim Ralph RIP |
| Friday <i>The Holy Family</i> | 9.30 am Polish | Polish Priest's Intentions |
| Saturday 31st December 2011 <i>7th Day of Octave</i> | No 9.30 am Mass 10.30 am Polish 5.30 pm Winterton 5.30 pm | - Polish Priest's Intentions Betty Wolkowski RIP Valerie King RIP |
| Sunday 1st January 2012 <i>Mary, Mother of God</i> | 10.00 am 5.00 pm Polish 6.30 pm | Downey Family RIP Polish Priest's Intentions People of the Parish |
| Rosary | <i>20 minutes before Mass Monday to Friday</i> <i>Saturday after 10.30 am Mass</i> | |
| Confessions | <i>Saturday 11.00 am-12 noon; 4.30 pm-5.00 pm</i> | |
| Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | <i>Saturday 4.30-5.15 pm concluding with Benediction</i> | |

Parish Clergy: Canon Edward Jarosz/Rev Deacon Bernard Croft
Tel: (01724) 842197 e-mail: holysouls@btinternet.com
Parish website: www.holysoulsscunthorpe.co.uk
Diocesan website: www.nottingham-diocese.org.uk
Polish Chaplain: Rev Wlodimierz Pajak Tel: (01724) 855698

Scunthorpe General Hospital – For the ministration of a Catholic priest contact Fr Eddy Jarosz on (01724) 842197

A message from Fr Eddy

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to our Christmas Masses at Holy Souls. Christmas is a feast that seems to touch the hearts of many people, and regular Church goers find that they have to squeeze up in the pews to make room for annual attenders or even those attending Church for the first time. However there is plenty of room for us all, not just in our Church building but also in our community. Just as the shepherds and the wise men had to squeeze into the stable (although not at the same time!), so today we can all find our own place in front of the crib and rejoice in recalling the birth of our Saviour.

As this is my first Christmas with you as Parish Priest, can I take this opportunity to thank you all for the kind welcome you have given me to Holy Souls and to Scunthorpe.

Thank you especially for the many Christmas cards and gifts. After three full months I feel settled and at home with you here, and I am looking forward to the New Year when I hope that, together, we will be able to build on the foundations of those who have gone before us and to share the Christmas message of 'peace and goodwill to all' with all whom we meet.

With prayers and blessings for you and your families,

Fr Eddy

Crib Offerings

This year our crib offerings will go to 'Faith in Families' and we will also send a donation to 'Missio' from our Mission Fund. If anyone has any suggestions for other children's charities we could support in future years please let Fr Eddy know.

Fr John Cahill

Fr John thanks parishioners for their many Christmas cards and promises to offer one of his Christmas Masses for the intentions of the people of this parish.

Christmas Collection

Traditionally the collection taken at Christmas Eve/Day and Easter Sunday Masses forms a major part of a priest's annual allowance. The money is paid into the parish and the parish can claim gift aid if people use their numbered envelopes. If you do use envelopes please remember to use them this weekend.

Christmas Trees

Thank you to the Polish Community for providing the Christmas trees for the Church and the entrance from the car park.

Harry Travers RIP

Harry's funeral will take place at 1.30 pm on Thursday 29th December at St Bernadette's. Our sympathies and prayers with Harry's parents, Michelle and David. May he rest in peace.

Father Philip Bailey

Congratulations to Fr Bailey, currently resident in Crowle, on the 60th anniversary of his ordination which occurred on 22nd December.

New Years Day

New Years Day 2012 falls on a Sunday and for that Sunday only the morning Mass will be changed to 10.00 am. Saturday evening and Sunday evening Masses will be at the usual times.

Home from University

If you are home from Higher Education and have not received an invitation to the social gathering on Wednesday 4th January please let Fr Eddy know.

The Forge Project

Thanks to all who brought items for The Forge. They were very gratefully received and will help vulnerable people over the festive period.

New Website

We have a new parish website www.holysoulsscunthorpe.co.uk It is still in its early stages but has full details of the Christmas Masses on the home page and there is also a download section from where you can download the weekly reminder. Fr Eddy would be pleased to receive comments and especially any offers of help to develop the site further.

Continuing the Conversation, Planning for the Future

It is now almost five weeks since the Centenary Mass and this weekend we will have celebrated Christmas. It will then be the time to resume the conversation that we began at our Parish Meeting back in October.

I propose that we meet again on Monday 23rd January at 7.00 pm. We can review the Centenary Mass and Christmas and consider further plans for our Centenary year.

We can also look more closely at the document from the Bishop, 'Living Stones'.

On Wednesday 25th January there will be an open Deanery Meeting which we are hosting at Holy Souls. This will consider how, as a Deanery, we can respond to 'Living Stones' and how we can work more closely together.

I would hope firstly that many parishioners will make an effort to be present on 23rd January, and secondly that from that meeting on the 23rd a group of parishioners can be nominated to represent the parish at the Deanery Meeting on the 25th.

I am giving these dates now so that people can enter them into their diaries in good time.