

“THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS”

THE ORIGIN

*Most everyone is familiar with the Christmas song, “The Twelve Days of Christmas”. To most it’s a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had quite a serious purpose when it was written.

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—a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in “writing” indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged. Hanging involved hanging a person by the neck until they had suffocated to death.

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. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ’s sadness over the fate of Jerusalem:

“Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldest not have it so...”

For most people, Christmas is over by December 26 and life has resumed its normal activities. The Church on the other hand, observes an Octave of Christmas until January 1 (after the Jewish practice of an 9 day celebration) and an extended Christmastime until January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord.

This popular Christmas song, is rooted in the festive celebration of Christmastime and a celebration of the Catholic faith, from a time in England and Ireland when Catholics had to disguise their Catholic beliefs.

When we next here this tune, let us all remember our faith, and be thankful that we do not have to disguise our Catholic beliefs.

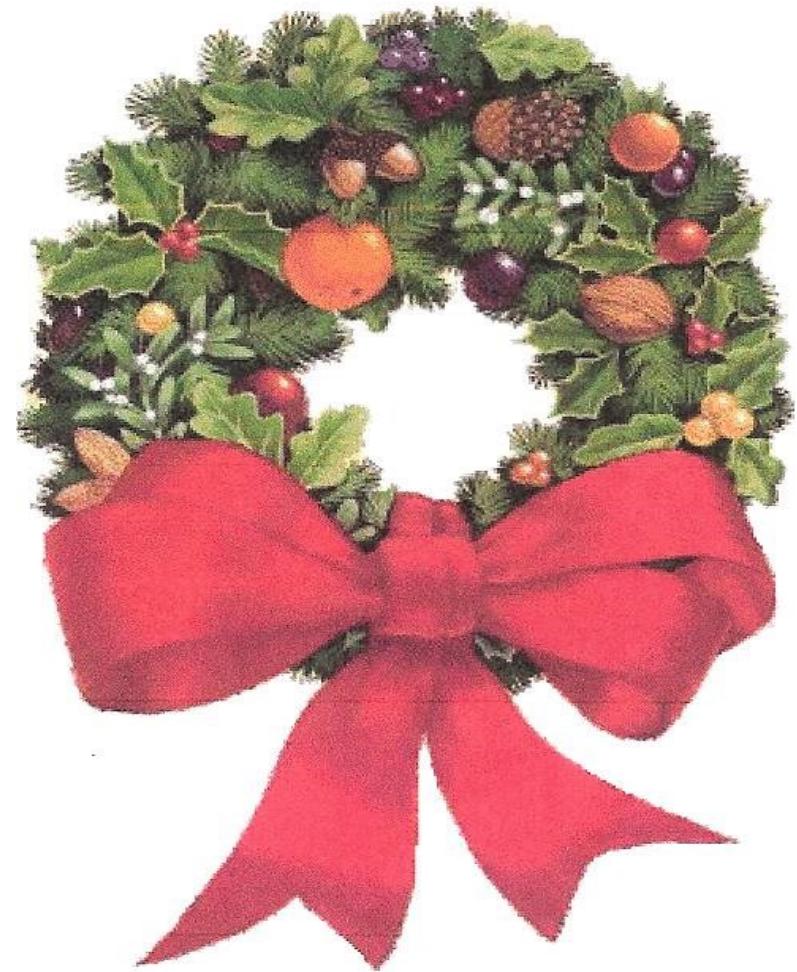
*excerpted from www.ewtn.com

A Blessed Christmas to you and your family!

PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE: www.pamphletstoinspire.com

ORIGIN OF

♪ “THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS” ♪



CHRISTMAS DAY

To

THE EPIPHANY

*“The Twelve Days of Christmas” THE SONG



On the 1st day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

A Partridge in a Pear Tree

The “true love” represents God and the “me” represents the Christian. The “partridge in a pear tree” is Jesus Christ who died on a tree or cross as a gift from God for the whole world.

On the 2nd day of Christmas my true love gave to me....

Two Turtle Doves

Two turtle doves are symbolic of the Old and the New Testament



On the 3rd day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Three French Hens

The three French hens are symbolic of the valuable poultry during that time, only for the rich could afford, like the wise men’s gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Also symbolic for faith, hope and charity.



On the 4th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Four Calling Birds

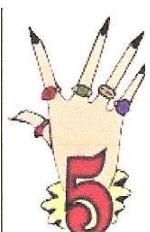
The four calling birds are symbolic of the four Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, like birds calling out with loud and distinctive voices.



On the 5th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Five Golden Rings

The 5 golden rings are symbolic of the first Five Books of the Old Testament, the “Pentateuch”, which gives the history of man’s fall from grace.



On the 6th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Six Geese A-laying

The six geese are symbolic of the six days of new life, the creation.



On the 7th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Seven Swans A-swimming

The swans are symbolic of the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost, the seven Sacraments that also change us from ugly ducklings into graceful adults.



On the 8th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Eight Maids A-milking

The eight maids milking are symbolic of the beatitudes



On the 9th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Nine Ladies Dancing

Symbolic of the nine fruits of the Holy Ghost (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control)



On the 10th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Ten Lords A-leaping

The ten lords leaping are symbolic of the ten commandments



On the 11th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Eleven Pipers Piping

The eleven pipers are symbolic of the eleven faithful apostles.



On the 12th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Twelve Drummers Drumming

The twelve drummers are symbolic of the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle’s Creed

*excerpted from llerrah.com