

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

by Ronald F. Wolf

Myth: The song *The 12 days of Christmas* refers to the twelve days before Christmas.

Fact: The 12 days refers to the days between Christmas and Epiphany (January 6). It is believed the three wise men were first introduced at this time.

Note: The following is concerned to be an urban myth. Many experts base it on theory.

Between 1558 and 1829 it was illegal to practice Catholicism in England. The 12 Days of Christmas was written in England to help young Catholics learn their faith.

When sung in public, the authorities would think the song was a nonsense child song. Experts believe that the song was written in 1780 and the music earlier in France.



On the first day of Christmas my true love (God) gave to me (every baptized person)....



A partridge in a pear tree = The partridge is Jesus.
2 Turtle Doves = Testaments (old and new).
3 French Hens = Faith, Hope & Charity.
4 Calling Birds = The Four Gospels and or the Four Evangelists.
5 Golden Rings = The first *Five Books of the Old Testament*.



6 Geese A-laying = The six days of creation.
7 Swans A-Swimming = The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments of the Catholic faith.



8 Maids A-Milking = The eight beatitudes (a map of life, 8 statements to remind people of the virtues Christ spoke of and the way to live life e.g. *Blessed are the meek for they shall possess the earth*.)



9 Ladies Dancing = The nine Fruits of the Spirit. Love, joy, peace, longsuffering (patience to endure), gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (self-restraint, self-control. *New Testament, book of Galatians, Chapter 5 verses 22, 23*.)



10 Lords A-Leaping = Ten Commandments.

11 Pipers Piping = The eleven faithful apostles.

12 Drummers Drumming = The twelve points in the Apostle's Creed.

