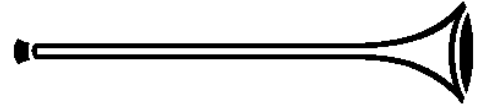




Wreccsam Clarion



Issue no 26
Christmas 2024

The newsletter of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham –
serving the parishes of North and Mid Wales

To make clearly known
To declare
To clarify
To call to prayer



Green and Red, the colours of Christmas! These colours probably originate from the holly; evergreen leaves and red berries, and may be pre-Christian. The winter solstice (in Northern Europe) will have been celebrated with green as the colour of hope and new life. Christianity has adopted the colours since they easily represent Christ's crown of thorns, and the spots of blood. White also has its place in the purity and innocence of Christ. Other colours of Christmas include blue for Mary (cf previous issues of 'Clarion') and gold for the gifts brought to the Crib. Green, is liturgically represented as the colour of Ordinary time.



Altarpiece in the church of Saint Mark, Zagreb, Croatia. – ©Zatletic

**TODAY A LIGHT WILL SHINE UPON US,
FOR THE LORD IS BORN FOR US**

**NADOLIG BENDIGEDIG A
BLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA
A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

*Best wishes and
Progress
+ Peter*



The Rt Rev'd - Y Gwir Barch Peter M Brignall
Bishop of Wrexham – Esgob Wrexham
LL13 7EW

CRIB OFFERINGS

With the first Parliamentary vote of assisted suicide now behind us we must not let up on our commitment to the issues at the heart of it all.

So, this Christmastide I invite us all to match our actions to our words and support the work of the three adult and one children's hospice in the Diocese.

The offerings made at the Crib this Christmas will be divided between:

Nightingale House Hospice, Wrexham,
St. David's Hospice, Llandudno
St. Kentigen's Hospice, St. Asaph,
Hope House Tŷ Gobaith Children's Hospice, Conwy

Please give generously to support these good causes.



In this 'Christmas' Edition,
Bishop Peter's column is on **Page 2**
Bishop's engagements are on **Page 6**
The Gospel Year of Luke, is on **Page 4**:
Advert for Centre Manager on **Page 5**

Special 'Christmas Fun' Supplement

Spotlight has moved to Page 7, with a Quiz, based on "12 Days of Christmas"
"Christmas Cracker puns, jokes and stories", page 8
Children's colouring, 'Things to do' and answers Page 9
NB Why not print off pages 7,8,9 to use with the family?



*Wishing you a very
Happy and Holy Christmas,
and a Blessed New Year*



*Nadolig Llawen a
Blwyddyn Newydd Dda*



Visit the Diocesan website: rcdwxm.org.uk

On Friday of the second week of Advent we heard the words of Jesus recorded in St. Matthew's Gospel: 'For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon." The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard ..."' (Matthew 11:18-19a)

These words could make extremely uncomfortable reading for us all at this time of celebration of our Saviour's birth, when to be fasting might seem a strange ungrateful thing to do, but equally feasting might be judged to be indulgent and excessive. When this is put into the context of those who experience famine and have no choice but to fast and cannot feast, we might well be faced with a dilemma.

Perhaps the greatest place of famine at the moment and which gets little reporting is in Sudan. The most recent reports from the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) tell of more than 11 million people having been uprooted within Sudan, and three million forced to flee into neighbouring countries including Chad, Egypt, and South Sudan (OCHA; UNHCR). An estimated 24 million people—half the population—are in acute need of food, including 1.5 million on the edge of famine according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Food Programme (WFP).

CAFOD and other agencies give similar accounts: "As violence persists into its second year, the humanitarian situation deteriorates rapidly, with 25 million Sudanese in need of immediate assistance. Famine looms ominously, threatening to become the worst crisis in living memory." (CAFOD's Representative for Sudan).

None of this is the sort of news we want to read or hear at Christmas in the midst of our plenty and joyful singing of 'Glory to God in the highest and peace to people of good will,' but we can't ignore it, nor should we despair because of the enormity of the problem and our seeming uselessness to be able to do anything about it.

Let me return to the words of Jesus, The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look at him! A glutton

and a drunkard ..." but completing the quotation Jesus continues, "... a friend of tax collectors and sinners!" Jesus is to be found sharing his feasting with the richest yet morally poorest, the despised and the rejected.

We have the opportunity to make choices, as John the Baptist reminds us when he told the crowds who came to him, asking what they should do. His response is clear, 'Whoever has food let him share with him who has none.' (cf. Luke 3:11)

So often we have the opportunity to respond to the cry of the poor and those in the greatest need. After all, when we feast, we intentionally partake in good food and drink in gratitude to God for the abundance of his blessings given to us and there can be no greater gift than that of his Son. Being reminded of this is itself a blessing and enables us to look forward in hopeful anticipation of the day Christ returns to make all things new and for all to take their place at His feast, forever. Now is that not something we want to share in fact as well as in spirit?

A grace for your Christmas meal, (*with thanks to Delia Smith*):

We thank you Lord for the gifts of your creation and ask your blessings on humankind that one day we can learn to share with poorer nations so that no one will go hungry.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A longer grace from his Grace Anthony Fisher, OP Archbishop of Sydney can be found on: <https://sydneycatholic.org/pdf/ARC-%20Designing%20Archbishop's%20Christmas%20Grace.pdf>

Please be assured of my continued prayer for you and your families this Christmas, may it be for you all a time of blessing, joy and hope, Happy Christmas, † Peter



JUBILEE YEAR 2025

MASS FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE JUBILEE YEAR

The Holy Father will open the Holy Door at St. Peter's on Christmas Eve, marking the beginning of the Jubilee Year, the theme for which is *Pilgrims of Hope*.

In every Diocese across the world, the beginning of the Jubilee Year is to be marked by the celebration of Masses in every Cathedral on the Feast of the Holy Family **29th December**. I shall celebrate the 10.30am Mass at Wrexham Cathedral on that day, which will begin - in accordance with the Ceremonial provided by the Holy See, with a procession. This will begin at 10.30am in St. Mary's Cathedral Hall and move to the Cathedral for Mass.

The Cathedral, and the Shrine of St. Winefride, Holywell are designated as Jubilee centres.

It is Bishop Peter's intention to visit each of the present deaneries during Lent for a Service of Reconciliation as part of our Diocesan Jubilee celebrations. Further details will be made available soon.

An extensive range of articles and resources are available on the Bishops' Conference website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025/>

THE REAL FATHER CHRISTMAS

Inspired by the Gospel story (Matthew 19:16-22) of the rich young man who couldn't give up his wealth a young Turkish boy who had been orphaned, committed his life to Christ and was later made Bishop of Myra. He used his inheritance to give gifts to the weak, the poor and the defenceless. This was in the early fourth century. As Christianity spread across Europe, so did the reputation of Nicholas of Bari who died c.343. His remains were removed from Myra to Bari in Italy in 1087, by merchant sailors.

The accounts of his giving gifts to the young continued until the European Protestant Reformation, when the place of the cult of saints becomes questioned. Not wishing to lose the mid-winter festivities, the Dutch and Germanic peoples, in particular, adapted his patronage of the young and children. The custom of giving gifts at his feast day (6th December) and the folklore and tradition of St. Nicholas therefore becomes the custom of 'Santa Claus', 'Saint Christmas', 'Old Man Christmas' ... or 'Father Christmas'. With the added twists of European migration to America and Dickens' influence upon English Victorian Christmases, the place, meaning and significance of the original devotion and custom is likely lost to what it is today.

For a further account of the life of St. Nicholas:

<http://www.vaticannews.cn/en/saints/12/06/saint-nicholas-of-bari--bishop-of-myra.html>

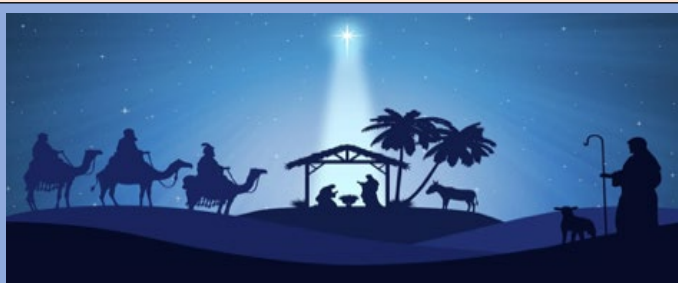
JESUIT INSTITUTE - WEEKS OF GUIDED PRAYER

In addition to the work of St. Beuno's Spirituality Centre and their work in our Diocese and beyond, last year the Jesuit Institute looked after the Week of Guided Prayer for those affected by Clergy Abuse. They did this on behalf of the Isaiah Project who had been running it previously. They are offering this retreat again, from 26th to 31st January with a team of experienced Spiritual Directors. Careful preparation has been given to this retreat and they involved their Province Safeguarding officer in ensuring that they were following Safeguarding protocols very carefully whilst supporting their team and being at the service of those who took part.

[An Online Week of Guided Prayer for those affected by Clergy Abuse in the Church - Week of Guided Prayer](#)

They also offer a retreat in March, 9th -14th which forms part of their 'Prisons Project' and supports those now trying to make their way in the world.

[Online Retreat in Daily Life for Former Prisoners - Week of Guided Prayer](#)



ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL

After MPs voted at the end of November to support the progress of a Bill which will enact assisted suicide for the first time in the UK, Archbishop John Wilson said this "represents a seismic and concerning shift in our nation's approach to caring for the most vulnerable among us".

The lessons learned from other countries where assisted suicide has been introduced should be heeded: promised safeguards become eroded over time, leaving the elderly, disabled, and seriously ill at risk of feeling their lives are a burden to others; the essential trust between patients and healthcare professionals gets undermined; as can the rights of medical practitioners, nursing and care staff, and institutions, to refuse to participate in practices that violate their deeply held ethical or religious convictions.

As we enter the Christmas season and take up again the great hymn, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will' we join with such people to continue to advocate for the protection of life at every stage, and to stand in solidarity with those who are the most vulnerable. Remember that the Son of God set aside his glory and 'not counting his equality with God a thing to be grasped, emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being form in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him ...' (Philippians 2:6-9a)

As the Committee Stage of this Bill begins, we continue to advocate that legislators and the whole of society find the strength to defend the dignity of every person and to build a society that values the gift of life from conception to natural death with true compassion.

We turn in prayer to the Lord Jesus who, by his birth among us, gives hope and, by sharing in human suffering, revealed the depth of his love, and, through his death and resurrection gives new life.

You can keep up to date with the progress of the Bill and the related issues by using the Bishops' Conference and Catholic Union (below) websites.

THE CATHOLIC UNION

To keep up to date with the interface between religious life and faith, and public life and politics the weekly briefing from Catholic Union of Great Britain is an invaluable source news and items currently in the public forum and about which we need be informed: info@catholicunion.org.uk





Gospel Year of Luke

Described by Paul as a physician, 'one who heals,' Luke is credited as author of the Gospel and Acts of the Apostles. He is patron saint of artists, notaries, bachelors, physicians, goldsmiths, butchers, brewers, glass workers.

GOOD NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE

And the angel said to [the shepherds] them, 'Fear not, for behold I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

And this will be a sign for you:

you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.'

Luke 2:10-12 ESV-CE

Christ is born: give him glory!

Christ has come down from heaven: receive him!

Christ is now on earth: exalt him!

O you earth, sing to the Lord!

O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified!

Christmas Canon. Orthodox Liturgy

Byzantine Daily Worship ©1969 Alleluia Press



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Vincentian Concern

SVP Member Magazine

The latest edition of the member magazine can **only** be found online: <https://svp.org.uk/vincentian-concern>

National President Elaine Heyworth explains in an article that this is due to unparalleled challenges facing the SVP. All charities, including the SVP find themselves facing growing financial pressures when demand for their services is going up at the same time that costs have increased. For example, the recent increase in National Insurance contributions adds an extra burden at a time when fundraising, donations and legacies have declined.

The greater part of the work of the SVP locally is done by Parish Conferences and volunteers, but they too need to be resourced. A number of parishes in the Diocese has an SVP Conference and many more support the work of the SVP with regular retiring collections.

If you have the time, energy or resources to help continue the work of the SVP among some of the neediest in society please offer that help.

If this is not possible, please keep in your prayers, all the SVP staff, volunteers, their clients, and all the work that is done at this challenging time.

Registered Charity No. 1053992

Saint Vincent de Paul, pray for us.

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, pray for us.

CALLING FOR PEACE – A CENTURY AGO AND TODAY

One hundred years ago, in 1924, a remarkable petition signed by almost 400,000 women in Wales, was presented to the women of the USA, calling on the US Government to join the League of Nations. The centenary has been celebrated by returning the petition from the United States to Wales, and digitising the signatures - enabling today's descendants to reveal the 'hidden history' of action for peace by that generation of grandmothers and great-grandmothers.

All this activity was celebrated in November at the Academi Heddwch (Peace Academy) first Annual Conference at the Temple of Peace in Cardiff, with the President of the Academy, Archbishop Rowan Williams. There is more about the history of the appeal at www.PeacePetition.wales

The occasion also saw the publication of Academi Heddwch's report, *Wales as a Nation of Peace*, calling on the Welsh Government today to do everything in its power to promote peace as part of its aim (under the 'Well-being of Future Generations Act') to make Wales a "globally responsible nation". It is hoped that the report will lead to widespread discussion about these topics.

The Women's Peace Petition was a remarkable achievement, but it did not immediately achieve its main goal. Back in Wales, the Welsh League of Nations Union (WLNU) considered what to do next. They decided to invite faith community leaders in Wales – in effect, the Christian churches - to sign a similar appeal, the Churches' Peace Appeal, to the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. Strangely, though, there is no record of the Catholic Church in Wales having been involved. Many of the documents have been digitised and can be viewed, along with a short explanatory feature film, at:

<https://www.wcia.org.uk/1925-churches-peace-appeal/>

The document was displayed at the celebration on November 16. A webinar presentation about the history by Gethin Rhys (Cytûn) and Craig Owen (Welsh Centre for International Affairs) can be seen on Cytûn's website:

www.cytun.co.uk @CytunNew www.facebook.com/CytunNew

The appeal was conveyed personally to the US Federal Council at its annual congress in Detroit in November-December 1925 by Revd Gwilym Davies, Secretary of the WLNU.

During 2025, it is intended to commemorate this history - an early example of ecumenism in Wales – and its contemporary relevance, in partnership by Cytûn, Academi Heddwch, the Welsh Centre for International Affairs, historians, faith leaders and peace activists in Wales and the USA.

The first event will be a meeting to mark the 70th anniversary of the death of Rev. Gwilym Davies - Baptist minister, founder of the Peace and Good Will Message by the Youth of Wales, and one of the main drivers of the peace movement between the two World Wars. The meeting will be held at Tonyfelin Baptist Chapel, 36 Heol Ton-y-Felin, Caerphilly CF83 1PA at 2-3.30pm on Sunday January 26 2025.

All welcome – admission is free of charge.

(from...) CYTÛN Policy Bulletin December 2024-January 2025

Visitor Centre Manager

at St Winefride's Well /Shrine, Holywell, CH8 7PN

An opportunity now arises for the right person to show their skills in managing, contributing effectively to the operation of the Visitor Centre, and ensuring a good experience for all visitors/pilgrims to this ancient religious site of St Winefride's Well and Shrine in the care of the Roman Catholic Church's Diocese of Wrexham (Registered Charity No.700426). Visitors to this historic Well, Chapel and grounds are served by a Visitor Centre that includes an Interpretative Centre, Museum, Exhibition and a Shop/Repository.

The Trustees are seeking a Full-time Manager of the Centre who is open to flexible working, can work alternate weekends and cover holidays, is highly motivated, and self-driven for this 'hands-on' role. The postholder, when on duty, would normally be the first point of contact for visitors to St Winefride's Well /Shrine.

Applications are invited from those with good customer service and management skills, including retail knowledge or experience; who are interested in the religious and historical features of this delightful heritage site; and who can promote and develop the retail, heritage and spiritual experience.

Summary: The postholder will:

- manage the Visitor Centre, with support of a small customer services team, motivating and developing staff, including in their historical and spiritual knowledge of the Well / Shrine.
- deputise for the Facilities Administration Manager when necessary.
- create a welcoming atmosphere and great 'one to one' visitor experience, engaging at all given opportunities.
- employ the necessary skills to develop the Centre's promotional materials and
- create the right atmosphere to maximise visitor involvement and the making of kind donations when desired.

Essential Requirements

- + Ability to communicate well with people at all levels of society and in the diverse communities and visitors served.
- + Ability to work autonomously and deal calmly with all issues that may arise.
- + Retail and Customer service experience, Stock Control, Purchasing, tills & PDQ, cash handling and associated procedures.
- + Be Experienced with all aspects of Office 365.
- + Prepared to make presentations to and guide individuals and groups, enjoying and being motivated by this aspect of the role.
- + A Catholic with a good knowledge of the Christian faith and motivated and enthusiastic to increase knowledge of the Cult of St Winefride, the Well and Shrine, and the related historical tradition.

Desirable:

- = Welsh Speaker
- = Readiness for Full time working alternate weekends on a Rota Basis, holiday cover
- = The right candidate will be flexible and adaptable to last minute changes.

Benefits of being a member of the team for Wrexham Diocese:

- Flexible working where possible Free parking
- NEST pension scheme Real Living Wage employer
- Attractive Salary Uniform provided

CLOSING DATE 24TH JANUARY 2025

Application Information and full Job Description available by email - businessmanager@rcdwxm.org.uk

Prayer Intentions

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION – December

Let us pray that the coming Church Jubilee Year 2025 strengthens us in our faith: helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION - January

For the right to an education.

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER:

During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for these intentions:

Migrants and Refugees,
Expectant Mothers

COMITES CHRISTI

The early Church had but one feast: the day of Kyrios (*trans.* Lord or Master) Christ, the weekly (Sunday) and annual (Easter) Pasch.

Only in the course of the fourth century did the solemnity of the Lord's coming among us make an appearance and only then to counterbalance the celebration of the pagan feasts of the winter solstice. The *Almanac* of AD 354 makes the first mention of the feast of Christmas.

In the circle of light shed by Christmas the New Testament saints made their appearance in the oldest of calendars in both the east and the West. The Middle Ages saw these saints as a cortège of honour accompanying the Christ-child, and gave them the name *Comites Christi*, 'Companions of Christ'.

In the Roman liturgy these companions are Stephen, the first martyr on 26th December, John the Evangelist on 27th December, and the children Herod slew in Bethlehem, (Holy Innocents) on 28th December. ...

The feasts of St. Stephen and St. John the Evangelist date from the fourth century in the East; and in the West, St. Stephen's celebration is known from the beginning of the fifth.

The feast of the Holy Innocents on 28th December seems to be a Western creation. The first mention of it is thought to be in a calendar of the North African city of Carthage around 505. ... The connection with the events of Christmas certainly influenced the choice of date for the feast within the Christmas Octave.

Myra was going to the Christmas office party but needed a new party dress. In the clothing store, she asked, 'May I try on that dress in the window, please?' 'Certainly not, madam,' responded the salesgirl, 'You'll have to use the fitting room like everyone else.'

Around and About in the Diocese

BISHOP PETER'S ENGAGEMENTS

December

19	1.30pm	Requiem Mass for Dcn James Lee	Abergele
20	6.00pm	Penitential Service	Cathedral
24	Midnight	The Nativity of the Lord	Cathedral
25	9.00am	Christmas Day Mass	Coedpoeth
	10.30am	Christmas Day Mass	Cathedral
28	11.00am	Altar Servers' Mass	Cathedral
29	10.30am	Opening of the Jubilee Year	Cathedral
	3.00pm	Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite	Cathedral
31	11.00am	Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family	Holy Family Convent

January

01	10.30am	New Year's Day Mass	Cathedral
05	10.30am	Mass of the Epiphany (transferred)	Cathedral

LOOKING AHEAD - EVENTS AND INVITATIONS JANUARY 2025

Sunday 5th Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord
(transferred from 6th)

18th – 25th Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity.
The theme for 2025 is:
"Do you believe this?" (John 11:26).

Sunday 19th Santo Niño Blessing
Peace Day

Sunday 26th Sunday of the Word of God

Monday 27th Holocaust Memorial Day

ALTAR SERVERS' MASS



**Bishop Peter invites the
Diocese's Altar Servers to join him
for the celebration Mass
for the Guild of St. Stephen**

and to renew their commitment to serving at the Altar on Saturday 28th December at 11.00am in St. Mary's Cathedral.

If there are any servers to be enrolled into the Guild of St. Stephen on that day, please let the Cathedral Office (office@wrexhamcathedral.org.uk) know ASAP in order that medals and membership cards can be prepared.

Following the Mass there will be a 'Burger Lunch' for all servers in the Cathedral Hall.

To help defray the costs a small cover charge will be made for the lunch.

"We took our three-year-old to church at Christmas. Getting impatient while waiting for the Mass to start, he turned to us and asked, "What time does Jesus get here?"

The Next Pages - 7,8,9

Have been left deliberately with little colour, so that readers may easily print them off, for sharing around the family, answering the Quiz, and for children to colour in the 'Christmas symbols'.

When you have answered the Quiz, then page 9 will be beautifully coloured for you to check your answers!@!

LORETO DAYS OF PRAYER 2025

'Come away and rest a while'
At the Loreto Centre Abbey Rd, Llandudno LL30 2EL

These days are for anyone who would like to come away for a few hours for some space for prayer and reflection. All are welcome.

The days are led by the Loreto Centre Team, and offer plenty of quiet time for personal prayer, and sharing for those who wish.

For more information and dates please see our website:

www.loretocentre.org.uk

Or email us:

loretocentre@yahoo.co.uk

Or call us:

01492 878031



Registered Charity 250607

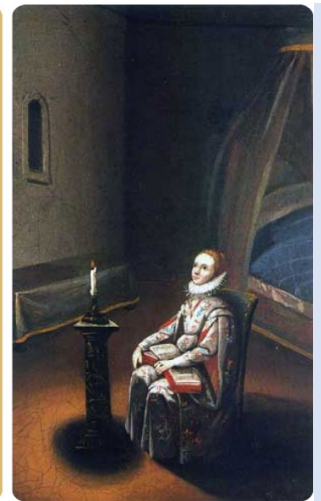
Mary Ward Prayer

21st – 23rd February

Loreto Spirituality Centre
Llandudno, North Wales

Joseette Zammit-Mangion IBVM
Ewa Bem IBVM

Drawing on Mary Ward's writings as well as her faith story, this retreat offers the opportunity to pray through our own particular history alongside hers.

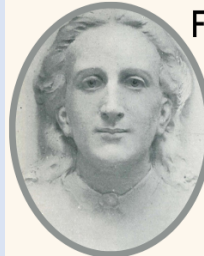


www.loretocentre.org.uk info@loretocentre.org.uk

For the Praise of His Glory

28th February – 2nd March

Loreto Spirituality Centre
Llandudno, North Wales

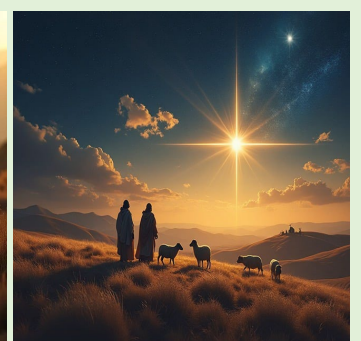


Praying with Elizabeth of the Trinity (French Carmelite) and Ann Griffiths (Welsh hymn writer)

Ioan ap Dewi OCDS and
Ewa Bem IBVM



Signs of Advent



In the Spotlight

Christmas Quiz, based on "The Twelve Days Of Christmas – (A Partridge in a Pear Tree)

Answers are based on
the numbers 1-12



And yes..... I am cheating!! The pictures to the left are of a pheasant in a garden, and a mistle thrush on a fir tree.
But it is a real pear on a real pear tree!



Day One:

1. What did my true love send to me on the first day?
2. What is the name of the US President's Aircraft ?
3. Who, in the land of the blind, is king?
4. What name is given to a single (one) musician?

Day Two

5. What did my true love send to me on the second day?
6. Which pair of skaters won gold in Sarajevo?
7. What are two musicians called?
8. "It takes two to"?

Day Three

9. What did my true love send to me on the third day?
10. 'Rub a dub dub, three men in a tub'. What are their occupations?

11. What are three musicians called?
12. The three Gibb brothers were called ''?

Day Four

13. What did my true love send to me on the fourth day?
14. What are the cardinal compass points?
15. Who are the four evangelists?
16. What is a group of four musicians called?
17. A Hugh Grant film?

Day Five

18. What did my true love send to me on the fifth day?
19. Who wrote the Famous Five stories?
20. Name the five boroughs of New York
21. What is a group of five musician called?
22. The name of a Police TV series in a US state?
23. What is a pentagon?
24. What is **the** Pentagon?

Day Six

25. What did my true love send to me on the sixth day?
26. What was the (old) 6d coin commonly called?
27. A cube has 6 sides: what is the cube number of 6?
28. In what sport is the Six nations?
29. What is a group of six musicians called?

Day Seven

30. What did my true love send to me on the seventh day?
31. Name the 7 dwarfs (dwarves)
32. How are Rhodes, Giza, Babylon, Alexandria, Ephesus, Halicarnassus, and Olympus collectively known?

33. Lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath - which two are missing?

34. Name the seven colours of the rainbow.

35. What is a group of seven musicians called?

Day Eight

36. What did my true love send to me on the eighth day?
37. What is a figure with eight sides?
38. What is a group of eight musicians called?
39. What is a figure with eight faces called?
40. What creature is a cephalopod?
41. What is the cube root of 8?

Day Nine

42. What did my true love send to me on the ninth day?
43. Where are you, in a happy euphoric state?
44. What is a group of nine musicians called?
45. What phrase describes a short lived sensation?
46. One part above, eight parts below. What is it?
47. 'Redivider' is a nine letter word. How is it special?
48. What name is given to prayers over nine days?

Day Ten

49. What did my true love send to me on the tenth day?
50. A ten cent piece in the US is known as a ...?
51. What is the Decalogue?
52. What is a group of ten musicians called?
53. What is counting on base 10 called?
54. Boccaccio's "Decameron" is how many 'storytellers' over a period of how many 'days'?

Day Eleven

55. What did my true love send to me on the eleventh day?
56. Which country's flag has eleven points on a leaf?
57. Apollo 11 landed two astronauts on the moon. Who?
58. What *might* a group of eleven musicians be called?
59. Why might a Simnel cake have eleven marzipan balls?

Day Twelve

60. What did my true love send to me on the twelfth day?
61. How many loaves are there in a 'baker's dozen'?
62. What name is given to the product of 12 squared?
63. What name is given to measurement based on 12?
64. Rhodes, Kos, Patmos are in which group of islands?
65. From which word do we get 'dozen'?
66. Why is twelve a convenient base number?

**Christmas crackers always contain
the worst puns imaginable
Can these beat them???**

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?
Claustrophobic.

What do you call Santa when he takes a break?
Santa Pause.

If a reindeer lost its tail, where could he get a new one?
At a retail store.

Where do polar bears vote?
The North Poll.

How does the snow globe feel this year?
A little shaken.

Why was the snowman embarrassed when he was spotted rummaging through a bag of carrots?
He was caught picking his nose.

What do you call a snowman with a 'six pack'?
An abdominal snowman.

What is the evidence that Microsoft has a monopoly of IT?
Even Santa had to switch from chimneys to Windows

Did you hear about the dyslexic Satanist?
He sold his soul to Santa.

One liners -

I asked my wife what she wanted for Christmas. She told me, 'Nothing would make her happier than a diamond necklace.
So I bought her nothing."

"I tell my kids that Santa is fat because he eats the children who get up early on Christmas morning. That way, I get to sleep in."

Spotted outside a church in Michigan: "Honk if you love Jesus. Keep on texting while you drive if you want to meet him."

Just before Christmas, an honest politician, a generous lawyer, and Santa Claus all got into the lift at the Ritz Hotel in London. As the lift travelled from the 5th floor down to the ground level, one-by-one they noticed a £50 note lying on the lift's floor.

Which one picked up the £50 note, and handed it in at reception?

Santa of course, the other two don't exist!

Freddie and John were fortunate enough to have a season ticket to watch Chelsea*. They could not help noticing that there was always a spare seat (B14) next to them and they had a friend who would love to buy a season ticket, especially if all three could have seats together.

One half-time Freddie went to the ticket office and asked if they could buy the season ticket for B14. The official said that unfortunately the ticket had been sold. Nevertheless, week after week the seat was still empty.

Then on Boxing Day, much to Freddie and John's amazement the seat was taken for the first time that season. John could not resist asking the newcomer, 'Where have you been all season'. "Don't ask" he said, "the wife bought the season ticket back last summer and kept it for a surprise Christmas present."

**Other football clubs are available!*

Forecasting Happiness

The Crist family worked at a zoo
Each year they predicted the general luck and overall mood of the year by watching the gnu. If the gnu's ears were forward, that meant a successful, joyous year was almost certain to happen. But if his ears were laid back flat against his head, it meant that an unlucky or very unhappy year was sure to come.

One year it was young Mary's turn to "survey" the animal and come up with a prediction. It was her first-time solo, and in her excitement, she forgot to take the key to the cage. She was late in coming to check on the gnu. Well, she saw the wrong ear position and predicted a bad year, when in fact it was quite good. A year later, to explain the error, the local newspaper ran the following headline

"Mary Crist misses an happy gnu's year."

Four-year-old Tommy to his two-year-old sister:
"Let's play Christmas. I'll be Santa Claus and you can be a present and I'll give you away."

It was the day after Christmas at St Peter and St Paul's church. Father John, , was looking at the nativity scene outside when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the figures.

Immediately, Father John's thoughts turned to calling in the local policeman but as he was about to do so, he saw little Nathan with a red tricycle with a basket and in the basket was the figure of the little infant, Jesus. Father John approached Nathan and asked him, 'Well, Nathan, where did you get the little infant?' Nathan looked up, smiled, and replied, 'I took him from the church.'

'And why did you take him?'

With a sheepish grin, Nathan said, 'Well, Father John, about a week before Christmas I prayed to Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red tricycle with a basket for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it.

One Christmas, my sister told me that Santa was not real. I told my grandmother, and she took me to the big department store. She handed me £10 and the assignment to buy something for somebody in need.

I thought of a boy in my class who had no coat and we bought a beautiful coat. We delivered it to his door with a secret note from Santa.

Since then, I have known Santa exists, and we are on his team.

Did you hear about the St Jude's Primary School Nativity Play? Two children are dressed as Mary and Joseph, and they are on their way to the Inn in Bethlehem.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the stage, a lad in a shepherd's outfit is on a mobile phone, calling to make a reservation.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. A partridge in a pear tree
2. Air Force One
3. A one-eyed man
4. Soloist
5. Two turtle doves
6. Torvill and Dean
7. A duet, or Duo
8. '.... to tango'
9. Three French Hens
10. Butcher, Baker, Candlestick maker
11. Trio
12. The Bee Gees
13. Four Calling birds
14. North, South, East, West
15. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
16. Quartet
17. Four Weddings and a Funeral
18. Five Gold Rings
19. Enid Blyton
20. Manhattan, Queens, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Staten Island
21. Quintet
22. Hawaii- Five 0
23. A five sided figure
24. HQ of the US Dept of Defence
25. Six Geese a-laying
26. A 'tanner'
27. 216 (6x6x6)
28. Rugby Union
29. Sextet
30. Seven swans a-swimming
31. Doc, Happy, Sleepy, Dopey, Grumpy, Sneezzy, Bashful
32. The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World
33. Pride, envy
34. Red Orange Yellow Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet
(Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain)
35. Septet
36. Eight maids a-milking
37. Octagon
38. Octet
39. Octahedron (eg crystals of diamonds)
40. An octopus
41. 2. (8/2/2)
42. Nine ladies dancing
43. On cloud Nine
44. Nonet
45. A nine-day wonder
46. An iceberg
47. Palindrome – reads both ways
48. A Novena
49. Ten Lords a-leaping
50. A dime
51. The Ten Commandments

Children's Corner Colour your own Christmas symbols!



Fun Facts

A 'Prime Number' is divisible only by itself and ONE.

Therefore the only EVEN Prime number is TWO

52. A decet, (rather the music for 10) or a dectet –(also a dixtuor)
53. Decimal
54. 7 men, 3 women, stories over 10 days
55. Eleven pipers piping
56. Canada
57. Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin
58. Undecet – or 'eleven-piece ensemble'
59. Twelve Apostles, without Judas
60. Twelve drummers drumming
61. Thirteen (it was to guarantee the weight)
62. A gross
63. Duodecimal
64. Dodecanese (There are many more than 12)
65. French, douze - une douzaine= about 12.
66. It has maximal divisors: 1,2,3,4,6,

Things to Do, with numbers:

Is a number divisible by 9?

Find out, easily:

Add all the digits in the number, until it is a single digit. **IF** it is 9, then the large number is divisible by 9.

Take 67;

6+7= 13: 1+3=4 NO

Try 2889:

2+8+8+9=27; 2+7=9 YES!

The same trick will work for number 3

To remember Pi. (π)

"How 3 | 1 wish 4 | 1 could 5 calculate 9 pi 2"

3.141592

