

The Garratt Publishing Annual Advent Calendar



Christmas Carols

It is unclear where Christmas Carols originated, who wrote them, how they evolved – even the exact origin of the word Carol remains a puzzle. However, we do know that carolling is an oral tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation and it is why several versions of the same Carol may be found today. The earliest English Carols that we know of were written by John Audelay, an English priest, who, at his deathbed in 1426, compiled a collection of his writings that included his own Christmas Carols.

St Francis of Assisi is considered by some to be the 'Father of Christmas Carols', having introduced Carols into formal worship of the church during a Christmas midnight mass in Italy in the 13th century. The energetic, joyful Carols were in sharp contrast to the sombre Christmas music of the day. These were often sung in Latin, but as the popularity of the Carols spread across Europe, a strong tradition of popular Christmas songs in regional native languages developed.

Musically, Carols were often based on medieval chord patterns which gave them their uniquely characteristic musical sound. Some Carols like *Personent Hodie* and *Good King Wenceslas*, can be traced directly back to the Middle Ages, and are among the oldest musical compositions still regularly sung.





Good King Wenceslas

🎵 The Irish Rovers, <https://youtu.be/N5E8CXQwtrg>

This Carol is based on Saint Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia or Svatý Václav in Czech (907–935). Wenceslas is a Latinised version of 'Venceslav'. It tells the story the Bohemian King braving the harsh winter weather to give alms to a poor peasant on the Feast of St Stephen (December 26). During the journey, his page, who was struggling against the cold weather, wanted to give up. But, he was able to continue by following the King's footprints, step for step, through the deep snow.

In 1853, English hymnwriter John Mason Neale wrote the 'Wenceslas' lyric, in collaboration with his music editor Thomas Helmore, and the Carol first appeared in *Carols for Christmas-Tide*, published by Novello & Co the same year. Neale's lyric was set to the melody of 13th-century spring Carol *Tempus adest florum* (*Easter time has come*) first published in the 1582 Finnish song collection *Piae Cantiones*.

Advent is time for walking slowly when others are rushing, for travelling lightly when consumers are burdened with merchandise, for eating less when others are eating more, for focus inwards when merry-makers drone in noisy carousing. Preoccupied with gift lists, Christmas cards and party planning, we allow Advent, this quiet season, to become the most frenetic time of the year. Without Advent, it is difficult to find the Christmas Christ. When dazzled by tinsel, we cannot see the star, let alone follow it. When speeding through the countdown before Christmas Day, we bypass the stable, and when our ears fill with jingles about Frosty and Rudolph, we miss the sweet strains of the angel's song.

NOVEMBER
29

Silent Night. Holy Night

🎵 Vienna Boys Choir, <https://youtu.be/vKvKMgR8H7k>

Silent Night, Holy Night (Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht) was written in 1818 by a young Austrian priest Fr Joseph Mohr. The melody was composed by Franz Xaver Gruber, a schoolmaster and organist. It was first performed on Christmas Eve 1818 at St Nicholas parish church in Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria. Gruber played the music on a guitar as the church organ had broken down. The melody and harmonization of *Silent Night* is based on the Italian musical style called the 'siciliana' that mimics the sound of water and rolling waves: two large rhythmic beats, split into three parts each.

Silent Night, Holy Night has been translated into at least 300 languages, designated by UNESCO as a treasured item of 'Intangible Cultural Heritage', arranged in dozens of different musical styles from heavy metal to gospel, and has become a perennial part of the Christmas soundscape.



Silent-Night-Chapel in Oberndorf, Austria,
stands on the site where the song was first performed

"The Lord is with you." (Luke 1:28)

Let this phrase remind you of God's presence. God is with us through every experience - the joyful moments, the sad ones, the difficult ones, and every moment in between. Let it be a comfort when you feel alone, an encouragement when you feel discouraged, and a blessing in times of joy. Jesus is always with you.

JESUS 365 – A DAILY INVITATION TO RENEW YOUR SPIRIT
The Word Among Us



NOVEMBER
30

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

🎵 Dennis Walter https://youtu.be/YQ4gZ_KmP0Q

Based on Luke 2:14, the original lyrics of *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* were written in 1739 by Charles Wesley, one of the founders of Methodism, for a publication called *Hymns and Sacred Poems*.

The melody was slow and sombre and apparently, it was not popular. In 1840, Felix Mendelssohn composed a cantata *Festgesang*, also known as the *Gutenberg Cantata* to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Johannes Gutenberg's invention of the printing press. In 1855 English musician William H Cummings adapted Mendelssohn's music to fit the lyrics of *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*. This is the tune that is sung today – a rather unlikely source for a Christmas Carol.

O God, who chooses to use our feet for your purposes, send us where you will. May our comings and goings in the lives of others bring goodness into their lives. And may those who come our way announcing your presence find a welcome home with us. Bless those who teach, those who preach, and those whose works reveal your goodness.

WAITING IN JOYFUL HOPE 2021-2022: DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Catherine Upchurch



DECEMBER

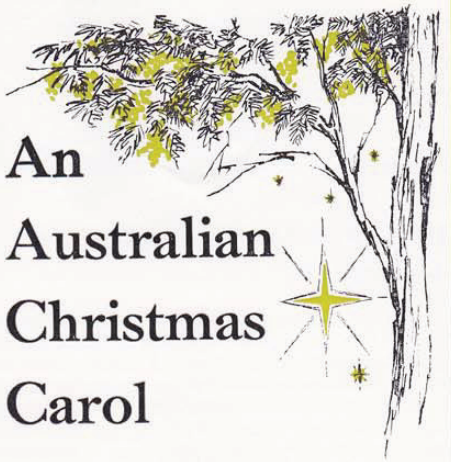
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An Australian Christmas Carol

This obscure Christmas Carol has been attributed to Rev Mother Francis Tobin, IBVM, Australian Loreto Sister. It is not known when it was written but it appeared in the December 17, 1953 edition of *The Catholic Weekly* with just the attribution of IBVM. However, when it was published in the December 1968 edition of *Progress* – the staff magazine of the State Savings Bank of Victoria – Mother Francis Tobin was recorded as the author.

Rev Mother Francis Tobin was born Elizabeth “Lizzie” Tobin in 1860 in Auburn Villa, Ararat, Victoria. In October 1875, at the age of 15, she became the seventh student to be enrolled in Mary’s Mount, Ballarat – the first Loreto school in Australia. At 19 she became the first Loreto student in Australia to become a postulant in the Loreto order, taking her vows in 1881, and professed in 1888. She passed away at Loreto, Kirribilli on August 12, 1956.

An Australian Christmas Carol



O little Babe of Bethlehem!
The Southern Cross shines down,
As once a Star shone glorious
Above an eastern town.
The hearts of Bethlehem are cold,
The streets are hushed with snow,
The doors are barred, there is no room,
Dear Lord, where wilt Thou go?
O come, sweet Jesus, come to us!
Australia's sun is warm,
And here are loving hearts enough
To shield Thee from the storm.
Come! we will give Thee all we have,
Each bird and flower and tree,
The breeze that stirs the silver gums,
The music of the sea.
And sweet wild clematis starry-eyed,
With delicate ferns we'll bring;
Our wattle trees shall shower their
gold
In tribute to our King.
We'll watch, when evening sounds
begin,
And dreaming flowers nod,
Thy Mother fold Thee in her arms,
Thou little Lamb of God,
Bell-birds shall ring their silver peal
From gullies green and deep,
And mingle with the mappies' note
To call Thee from Thy sleep.
O little Babe of Bethlehem
Australia loves Thee well,
Come to our hearts this Christmas-
tide,
And there forever dwell.
Mother Francis, I.B.V.M.



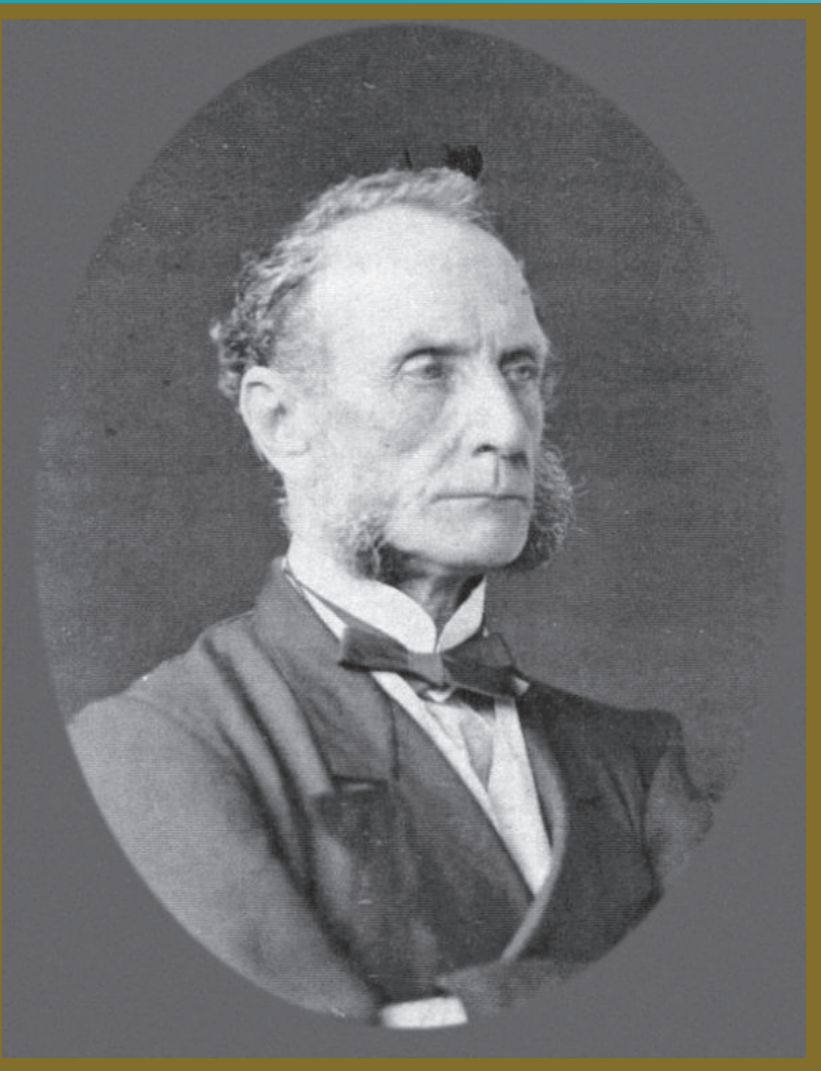
Rev Mother
Francis Tobin,
IBVM

“Let not the foreigner say, ... ‘The Lord will surely exclude me from his people’. The foreigners who joined themselves to the Lord, ministering to him, loving the name of the Lord, and becoming his servants... will be acceptable on my altar... For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” (Isaiah 56: 3, 6-7)

Lord grant me the grace to see you in all peoples.

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD - DAILY MEDITATIONS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS
Phyllis Zagano





O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

🎵 Epic Flash Mob Carol #LIGHTtheWORLD | The Five Strings
<https://youtu.be/XI2c9yptr4U>

O Come, All Ye Faithful, originally *Adeste Fideles* in Latin, has been translated into many languages and attributed to many authors, including John Wade. It was also known as the Portuguese Hymn as it was a popular hymn sung at the Portuguese Embassy in London. From 1588 – 1829 it was illegal to practice the Catholic Faith in England, however it was safe to worship at the chapels attached to the London Embassies of Catholic countries. John Wade, who worked as a scribe for numerous London Embassies and published many books, was a regular attendee at the Portuguese Embassy. Wade was also known for having an underground press for the Catholic community. His manuscripts were purported to contain secret messages for the faithful to overthrow the Tudors and reinstate the Stuart Monarchy, with the aim being to abolish the laws directed at Catholicism. It was in one of these manuscripts in 1751 that Wade penned *O Come, All Ye Faithful* – the first known version of the Carol in English. However, it is the English translation of the Carol by English Catholic priest Frederick Oakeley written in 1841, that is most widespread in English-speaking countries today

Loving God we step into the world this day as we do every day. Sometimes it is easy to leave the comfort of home, sometimes it isn't, but mostly we rush out on autopilot because we are running late. Beyond this door there are many things we can't control, situations we can't predict and events whose pace frustrates us. Give us the peace of heart and strength of purpose that allows us to step out and find our home with you wherever your grace leads us today. Help us this day to be the answer to somebody else's prayer. Amen

DOORWAYS INTO HOPE AND JOY AT ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Michael McGirr

The Twelve Days of Christmas

🎵 Sydney Children's Choir Mini Singers
<https://youtu.be/9km-jPQhK5A>

The origin of this Carol is unknown, however, it is a popular Carol among many faiths. The earliest known version first appeared in a 1780 children's book called *Mirth Without Mischief* with no music and was intended as a chant or rhyme. A first edition of this book sold for \$23,750 at a Sotheby's auction in 2014!

It wasn't until 1909, that Novello & Co Ltd – known for publishing choral literature since 1811 – published the lyrics with the now-standard melody. English composer Frederic Austin fitted the words to a traditional melody. He added his own two-bar motif for 'Five Gold Rings' and many of the decisions Austin made with regard to the lyrics subsequently became widespread, such as:

- » The initial **On** at the beginning of each verse,
- » The use of "calling birds", rather than "colly birds", on the fourth day, and
- » The ordering of the ninth to twelfth verses.



Jesus so many people need healing today. Give them your comfort, healing, and peace. Be with those who work to heal and guide them with your wisdom. Amen

TOGETHER WE WAIT – DAILY REFLECTIONS, PRAYERS AND ACTIONS

Connie Clark

CHRISTMAS CAROLS,

ANCIENT AND MODERN;

INCLUDING

THE MOST POPULAR IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND,

AND THE AIRS TO WHICH THEY ARE SUNG.

ALSO SPECIMENS OF

French Provincial Carols.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES.

BY

WILLIAM SANDYS, F.S.A.

LONDON:

RICHARD BECKLEY, 42, PICCADILLY.

1833.

DECEMBER

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THE FIRST NOWELL

🎵 Tenorissimo, Carols In The City, Brisbane (2012)
https://youtu.be/_dfY-oMin30

It is thought *The First Nowell*, or *The First Noël*, was originally a Cornish gallery Carol. Called a 'gallery' Carol because during the 18th century many small country churches in England lacked an organ, so amateur choirs formed to lead singing from the gallery or balcony. It is suggested that Noël comes from the Latin verb *nasci*, meaning 'to be born'. In the book of Ecclesiastes, the birth of Jesus is called *natalis*. A variation of this word, *nael*, made its way into Old French as a reference to the Christmas season and later into Middle English as *nowel*. It then became the idiomatic term for Christmas.

As with most Carols the lyrics often differ, but its current form was first published in 1823 in William Sandys' collection of Carols from the West Country, *Carols Ancient and Modern*. Interestingly, in *The Cornish Song Book* by Ralph Dunstan published in 1929, the lyrics were "O well, O well, the Angels did say... O well, O well, O well, O well, Born is the King of Israel".

Thank you, O God, for the gift of faith, for showing me where my mind, my heart, and my soul can find lasting and profound peace, hope, and love.

AWAKEN TO NEW LIGHT - DAILY REFLECTIONS, PRACTICES AND PRAYERS

S James Meyer



IMAGE AND TEXT ATTRIBUTIONS

GARRATT ADVENT CALENDAR 2022

COVER

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NOVEMBER 30

Bronzino, Public domain, Wikimedia Commons

DECEMBER 1

Text and image of Francis Tobin: Mother M
Gonzaga Barry I.B.V.M. Her Life and Letters Vol.
1, M. M. Francis Tobin I.B.V.M.
<https://folksong.org.nz/>
Image: AustralianCarol_StateBank_
ProgressDecember1968

DECEMBER 2

Text: Ascensionpress.com
<https://walkerhomeschoolblog.wordpress.com/>

DECEMBER 3

Xavier Romero-Frias, CC BY-SA 3.0

DECEMBER 4

Text: <https://www.allclassical.org/the-stories-of-twelve-famous-carols/>,
<https://www.altalang.com/beyond-words-etymology-of-noel/>
Image: <https://blog.library.in.gov/victorian-era-christmas-books-at-the-indiana-state-library/>

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