The Rectory

 Escrick

Dear Friends,

**Twelve days of Christmas**

The infant Jesus is our focus at Christmas time and the end of the Christmas season is Epiphany (6th Jan.) when we celebrate the wise men bringing gifts to Jesus. The season of Epiphany ending with The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (2nd Feb.)

 Surely when Christmas comes the celebration has just begun. Christmas is a great feast day, to celebrate that the God we worship is not remote and inaccessible but is just like us. He knows our need and really understands what it is to be human, for he came to live among us, human like us.

The song “the twelve days of Christmas” has hazy origins, having links with the North East and some French influence too. It may have been a children’s forfeit song with mistakes in the singing or recitation of it, resulting in a forfeit. As the song progresses the gifts increase in value and strength. They remind us that this Christmas season is about giving and love.

 As the Christmas season turns to the season of Epiphany Jesus is revealed and we recognise him in his fullness as our saviour and king. The season is a season of light and candles, ending with the candles being brought into church for a blessing on 2nd Feb. (Candlemas or Presentation of Christ).

At Christmas we light the Christingle Candles and take them home. Let the light of Jesus Christ shine in your homes this new Year and bring you his Blessing