

However, maybe there is one benefit, it allows everyone to participate in the Christmas frivolities regardless of their religious belief. As a Spiritualist I am not a Christian, although I know some Spiritualists retain their Christian links. To me the work of Jesus Christ was not to save us but to teach us to save ourselves. I see Jesus like many other great teachers from the past, a teacher, healer and medium. A man strongly in touch with that spark of the divine within himself that he could work what appeared to be miracles. This is the spark of Spirit that we all have within us that Jesus said we could all aspire to use as he had.

His words ring with humanity, reflecting the teaching of all the great sages from early times. His teaching, to love one another regardless of differences, reflects the same Golden Rule propounded by Confucius and implicit in so many religions. His ideas run counter to Old Testament and Ten Commandments. The punitive words of these teachings seem often to be more beloved by our churches than the words of love from Jesus.

It is because of these common teachings of love, within all the great religions, that we should all be able to relate to the Christmas ideal, whatever religion we are. Setting aside our differences and celebrating our similarities. If we add this to the Festive Season maybe we can balance all of its elements. Add the value of the teachings of love to the fun and joy of the season. Put the commercial elements of Xmas into their proper place so they do not drive you to over spend or to have expectations that are too high to be met.

Take pleasure in passing the time of the season with anybody, but especially treasuring those closest to you whether here or elsewhere. Find space at Christmas for your own reflections and memories letting go of old hurts.

The Committee, Trustees and I wish you all a Wonderful Solstice, Happy Mithra's day, Joyeuse Noel, Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year.

Enjoy yourselves over this holiday period. We look forward to seeing all of you in the New Year. Remember next year will be exciting

Jim Warwood Mission leader 4th December 2017

The Seven Principles of Spiritualism

1. **The Fatherhood of God.**
2. **Brotherhood of Man**
3. **Communion with Spirits as Ministering Angels**
4. **Continuous Existence of the Human Soul**
5. **Personal Responsibility**
6. **Compensation and Retribution hereafter for all the good or evil deeds done here**
7. **A path of eternal progress open to every human soul that wills to tread it by the path of eternal good**

UNLEY SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION

New Age Spiritualist Mission Inc

www.nasm.org.au

The Rosa Tingey Centre, 38 Palmerston Road, Unley, SA. 5061

ENQUIRIES: 8172 0515 or 8367 6984;

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Our Program - Open to Everyone

December 2017	
SUNDAY 3rd December 2..30-3.40	Barry Gray Healing 2-2.30pm Donation
Monday 4th December 7.15(7.30 Start)-9.05pm	Open development group with Jim meditation develop Psychic & Medium \$10 Last one before Xmas
SUNDAY 10th December 2..30-3.40	Wendy Schmidt Healing 2-2.30pm Donation
WED 13th december 7.30 pm-9.15pm	Our 3rd Christmas Tree Séance \$15 and a toy for under the tree up to \$10 see below
SUNDAY 17th December 2..30-3.40	Christmas Close Fun and Singing bring a plate of food to share. There will be messages Healing 2-2.30pm Donation
	We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year
January 2018	
SUNDAY 21st Jan 2..30-3.40	An Open Circle with Barry Gray come and join in Healing 2-2.30pm Donation
WED 24th January 7.00 pm 9.10	Introduction to the new monthly mediumship group on Wednesdays Jim \$15
FRIDAY 26th January 11.00 am -2.00 pm	DROP-IN HEALING CLINIC Donation (\$5) 11am-1.45pm
SUNDAY 28th January 2..30-3.40	An Open Circle with Jim Warwood come and join in Healing 2-2.30pm Donation
WED 31st January 7.00 pm 8.30pm	TGA Adelaide Tarot Meet Up \$10
February 2018	
FRIDAY 2nd Feb 11.00 am -2.00 pm	DROP-IN HEALING CLINIC Donation (\$5) 11am-1.45pm
SUNDAY 4th February 2..30-3.40	Barry Gray Healing 2-2.30pm Donation
Wed 7th February 7.30-9.00pm	Psychic Development Group with Justin \$15
FRIDAY 9th Feb	DROP-IN HEALING CLINIC

11.00 am -2.00 pm	Donation (\$5) 11am-1.45pm
SUNDAY 11th February 2..30-3.40	TBA Healing 2-2.30pm Donation
WED 14th February 7.30 pm 9.00pm	New monthly mediumship group on Wednesdays Jim \$15 Open group Feb & Mar
FRIDAY 16th February 11.00 am -2.00 pm	DROP-IN HEALING CLINIC Donation (\$5) 11am-1.45pm
SUNDAY 18th February 2..30-3.40	Sharon Opitz Healing 2-2.30pm Donation
WED 21st February 7.30 pm 9.00pm	
FRIDAY 23rd February 11.00 am -2.00 pm	DROP-IN HEALING CLINIC Donation (\$5) 11am-1.45pm
SUNDAY 25th Feb. 2..30-3.40	An Open Circle come and join in Healing 2-2.30pm Donation
WED 28th Feb. 7.00pm – 8.30pm	TGA Adelaide Tarot Meet Up \$10

PRIVATE READINGS PRE BOOKED Ring JIM OR LIS 8367 6984 PRICES VARY

Special Events:

13TH DECEMBER OUR THIRD CHRISTMAS TREE SÉANCE;

Great fun, put it in your calendar and look for the brochure. This is part of our charitable campaign to supply Uniting Care with Toys for Children. Look for notices

Next year look for the changes: especially .Our open groups and potential workshops. Do you feel you want to develop your mediumship or to try and move to be a medium On Wednesday 24th January Jim Warwood would like you to come along to the introduction of the new monthly evening group to work on mediumship. This group will become a closed group so the work can be taken seriously (but with fun)

Thanks also to all of our Mediums, Presenters, Volunteers and those who contribute to us in any way to our centre.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE MONTH

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CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

It is Christmas once again, look around you somewhere, lost underneath that gloss of Christmas Presents and Father Christmas, is the underlying Spiritual story of Jesus even if it is no longer centre stage. Maybe this is not surprising, the Romans chose to celebrate his birth, not on the actual date it occurred but on a traditional day of celebration which was already very important to their culture.

When Christianity was adopted as the Official religion of the Roman Empire there was a need to bind together the immense cultural diversity of their community. This was by incorporating traditional festivals, celebrated for other deities, into the festive days of the Christian religion. Thus underlying most Christian celebrations are the foundations of earlier beliefs.

Christmas was the birth day of the most important Roman God, Mithra, born out of a rock and with the symbol of a lamb, brought back from Persia by the legions. However, even that day was borrowed from an earlier religion. The use of December 25th also tied this celebration to the winter solstice, a date celebrated with festivities from earlier days when the sun was worshipped. Forging a link to the belief that this was a time for the rebirth of all things, especially of that most essential ingredient to life, the Sun.

As this date was already widely celebrated it became more acceptable as the key celebration of their new formal religion. However, that celebration led to the incorporation of other ideas. Slowly but surely we have seen the rise of Father Christmas to the preeminent position at Christmas, usurping even that of Jesus Christ. Now the happy, tubby fellow in the red suit forms the grand finale to Carols by Candlelight and Christmas pageants supplanting any religious significance they may have had.

Yet the legend was there before the Romans chose December. In the early echoes of the 4th Century Saint Nicholas of Myra (a Byzantium province), a very pious Christian Bishop famous for his generosity to the poor, we find ourselves taken back to the pagan god Odin. The Germanic people already had the Yule holiday. Odin, in legend, led great hunting parties through the sky. Children left carrots straw and sugar for Odin's 8 legged "horse" to eat (leading to the reindeer myth) and receiving presents.

With the advent of Christianity the Odin myth and the Saint Nicolas myth became blended. The Dutch legend of Sinter Klaas, travelled to the USA. There the legend met the British Father Christmas, as depicted in the early illustrations in Dicken's Christmas Carol (1843), a well nourished bearded man dressed in a long green fur trimmed robe. Coca Cola are credited with the final version of Santa Claus, through an advertising campaign running from 1931 to 1964, designed by artist Haddon Sundblom. The image chosen was one that Thomas Nast Thomas Nast, a civil war cartoonist, had drawn for Harpers Bizarre in 1863. Sundblom's inspiration for the character, was a poem called "A visit from St. Nicholas" written by Clement Clark Moore in 1822.

In reality is it so bad that this benign figure has taken over Christmas? In the sense that it has become rampantly commercial undoubtedly it is becoming the focus of people's expectations, with billions of dollars spent upon advertising to sell us the presents that we all "need" for Xmas. It removes the focus from the spiritual story that is the reason for our festivities.