

In the year 274AD, solstice fell on 25th of December, and Roman Emperor Aurelian proclaimed the date as "Natalis Solis Invicti," the festival of the birth of the invincible sun. In 320 AD, Pope Julius I specified the 25th of December as the official date of the birth of Jesus Christ. In 325AD, Constantine the Great, the first Christian Roman emperor, introduced Christmas as an immovable feast on 25 December. In 354AD, Bishop Liberius of Rome officially ordered his members to celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25.

In some parts of the Roman Empire (mostly the Eastern parts), **solstice** was celebrated on January 6, the last festival day for those who started solstice on December 25. (Saturnalia was held over 12 days.) The Orthodox Churches of Eastern Europe celebrate Christmas on January 6 while those elsewhere celebrate Christmas on December 25, with the figure of **Father Christmas** having become the symbol for the celebration.

Merry Christmas!

The most likely year that Jesus was born, is 6BC, probably in the month of March. Since there was no year 0 (zero) recorded, the 2nd millennium celebration of the birth of Jesus should have been held in March 1995.

But considering that Nativity was not celebrated at all for the first 300-or-so years, and that Christmas became widely popular only in the 19th Century, it remains remarkable that the birthday of Jesus Christ today is one of the biggest industries in the world. A rather apt acknowledgment.