

Astrology for December 2024

Overview of December 2024



What a busy and ever-changing month December is. We start it with the New Moon in Sagittarius on 1st and with Mercury, Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune and Chiron retrograde. During the month, three of those five go direct whilst Mars goes retrograde so we end the month with a second New Moon on 30th with Mars, Jupiter and Uranus retrograde.

The New Moon on 1st is an encouragement to seek the wisdom of our experiences and brings hope and light as we have a spiritual rebirth from chaos and uncertainty earlier in the year, a dark night of the Soul. Now come the opportunities and synchronicities that will help to lead us forward on our path.

With Mars going retrograde on 6th and Neptune going direct the next day, a few days either side could lack clarity and energy or conversely help to reveal truths and we could feel quite motivated. Beware of old anger arising due to Mars' stillness.

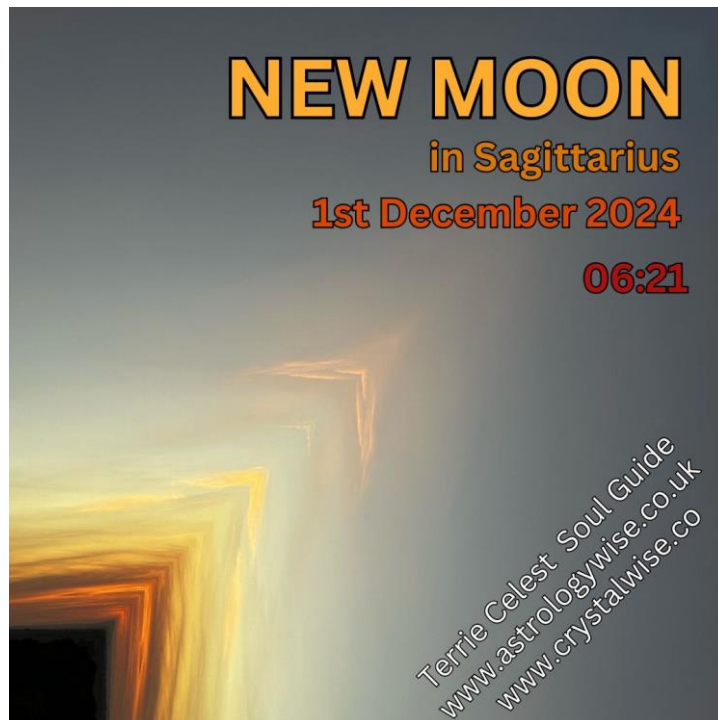
12th is a day to be aware of, when the feminine and masculine archetypes of the chart, Venus and Mars, oppose each other. We might see this in the collective and/or on a personal level and in the few days after that Mercury will be slowing as the energies also build to the Full

Moon, both occurring on 15th, when there is also a niggly connection between the Sagittarian Sun and Uranus. With the focus clearly on our mind, thoughts and communication, this Full Moon encourages us to release old mindsets and step into our wisdom.

This brings us to the last week of this astrological quarter which will begin at the Winter Solstice (northern hemisphere, Summer in the southern) on 21st December, so the days after the Full Moon up to the Solstice offer the opportunity to bring some matters of the last three months to a close and to do some final releasing of anything that we don't want to carry forwards with us.

Just before the second New Moon of the month, now with the Sun in Capricorn, Chiron goes direct (29th) and the few days before that, as it slows will bring some focus on unresolved karma. The New Moon is encouraging us to focus on positives and to keep putting one front of the other, edging our way forward, maybe slowly, but most importantly, surely.

Daily astrology of December 2024



We begin the month with the first of two New Moons, this one in Sagittarius and the second on the 30th after the Winter Solstice, with the Sun in Capricorn. So this is the last New Moon of this astrological quarter and I would always look at what is occurring between the main Moon phases, what is brewing, coming to fruition, what does this two-week phase incorporate and encapsulate? What is happening and changing between now and the next major phase?

Well, this is an exceedingly busy period. Not only does Mercury's retrograde, in Sagittarius, take place entirely whilst the Sun is in that sign, Mercury goes direct on 15th just a few hours after the next major phase, the Full Moon with the Sun in Sagittarius and the Moon in Gemini, both dual signs.

The day after this New Moon, retrograde Uranus has a lovely, helpful connection with Venus and retrograde Mercury and Chiron have another, suggesting some help to clear old karmic wounds, particularly around the thoughts and communication. Mars is slowing and goes retrograde on 6th, when Neptune will be stationary, going direct on 7th, and significant transits include Mercury going back over the Sun (also on 6th), marking its deepening last ten days of its retrograde and an opposition between Venus and then retrograde Mars, the feminine and masculine archetypes in the chart, on 12th.

What new ideas, mindsets, viewpoints is Sagittarius encouraging us to embrace?

This New Moon represents the dawn after a dark night of the Soul, an awakening of, or on our spiritual path when we can leave aspects of duality behind, when we are no longer torn apart between the higher mind, striving for spiritual enlightenment and our lower, human, personality desires. In basic terms this can be seen in the desire to conquer and overcome others and situations being replaced with compassion.

And that compassion comes with wisdom from our experiences becoming fused with love and understanding, higher love and understanding. We have faith in Spirit and our path and can blend our spiritual and human natures, anchoring the spiritual on Earth. From an urge to gather information and experiences we move on to fusing, blending that knowledge and experience into wisdom.

With Sagittarius being ruled by Jupiter, now is the time to notice synchronicities and serendipities, to follow up on the opportunities presented to us. If something catches your eye or attention, engage curiosity to explore that further, follow it through and see where it leads. Note any negative inner dialogue that tries to convince you that it will lead nowhere, it's not worth bothering with, that things never work out for you etc. etc. Those are the old beliefs that keep us in lack and reinforce the ingrained beliefs that we can't succeed, achieve our goals, be abundant, feel loved or worthy etc. etc. It is time for these to go.

Notice fresh enthusiasm and positivity surfacing, even if outside circumstances don't back that up and take these two weeks, leading up to the Full Moon and Mercury changing direction on 15th, to review your plans for the future. What do you want to see in it, what new ideas can you put into place, what experiences and knowledge can you now call on, what wisdom begins to solidify from these?

Shoot your arrows into a brighter future, but do have a strong idea of where you want them to land and shoot them with determination in that direction, rather than releasing a load and hoping they land somewhere.

It's your future, plan it, take control of it, wish it and believe in it.

After the opportunities presented by the New Moon and some helpful connections on 2nd, the energies subtly and gradually change. What might not be quite so subtle is the potential for rising stress and old anger arising. This might not be from when we were previously angry but from situations in the past where we might have felt disempowered at the time, not able to take action or say anything but hindsight and reviewing the situation now we see the energies at play and can feel angry.

Energy levels could be extra high or extra low with a lack of motivation and either way, stress levels need to be watched and managed. There is likely also to be a lack of clarity, miscommunication and a wistfulness could arise whilst conversely we can discover truths.

All these variables and possibilities are due to two planets slowing and changing direction, with Mars going retrograde on 6th and Neptune, currently retrograde, going direct the next day and we are likely to feel these changes for a few days either side.

Leading up to these, 4th is a busy day with Mercury opposing Jupiter for the second time, the Sun squaring Saturn and the only help we can call on comes from a connection between Venus and slowing Neptune. This might just be one of those days that we need to ride out, find what positives we can and repeat to ourselves the old mantra – *This too shall pass!*

Neptune does bring us creativity, imagination and a higher, spiritual connection, so if you are able to, channel your energy into art, dance, music, anything creative, meditating, cleansing and reorganising your crystals, sitting in a crystal grid, connecting with a skull or dragon etc. etc. Whatever avenue and outlet you chose, have no expectations of achieving an outcome, just find something that you can spontaneously do what you feel, what arises. Having expectations of what you want to happen or achieve, is probably the quickest route to stress arising as things are very likely to be flexible, take a side-route and bring some bumps in the road.

Remember, this too shall pass.

Mars changes direction on 6th as Mercury passes back over the Sun as part of its retrograde pattern and these last ten days until it goes direct on 15th, also the Full Moon, are when we feel it dig in deepest. Behind the Sun, it highlights the unconscious nature of the mind and our communication and we therefore have to watch our inner dialogue and keep outward interactions positive, non-judgemental and kind. Sagittarius can be blunt with an air of, *well I can say what I want*, and this is where the three filters should come into play. Just because we can, doesn't mean we should.

Is it true?

Is it necessary?

Is it kind?

And with Mercury having a testing connection to Saturn on 7th, it is a good opportunity to take responsibility for our communication. Also on 7th the Sun and retrograde Jupiter have another testing opposition, Venus reaches the end of Capricorn before entering Aquarius where it quickly meets and passes over Pluto. Oh, and Neptune goes retrograde too!

So, over 6th and 7th, nine of the first ten planets are noticeably doing something and this makes it almost impossible to get a precise description of what we might experience, and when this happens, the strongest message is often to ride the waves, not to overinterpret and especially not to try to steer a course as things will be constantly changing. It might be that this is all combining to help us explore and accept, the nature and inevitability of change. And like a very large tanker changing course, it can't go instantly from one direction to another and each of these individual connections and changes of direction add up to incrementally steering us onto a new course.

Don't stress, go with the flow of whatever is arising, enjoy riding the waves and engage curiosity, not fear, to see where we are when we come out of the other side.

The Sun/Jupiter opposition means that Jupiter is at its brightest so if the skies are clear in the evening, see if you can spot it!

The waxing half Moon is on 8th, marking the mid-way point between the New Moon of 1st and the upcoming Full Moon on 15th and tests anything new that we started to implement them. It is also time to let old illusions go, idealism about things that didn't turn out the way we wished and parental, especially fathering issues that we are clinging onto. Given that we are all individual Souls having a human experience and doing the best that we can, and that we choose our life and our challenges, it is time to turn our perspective around and to find the wisdom in our experiences. That is where true spiritual growth comes from.

If you look skywards in the evening, Saturn can be seen alongside the Moon.

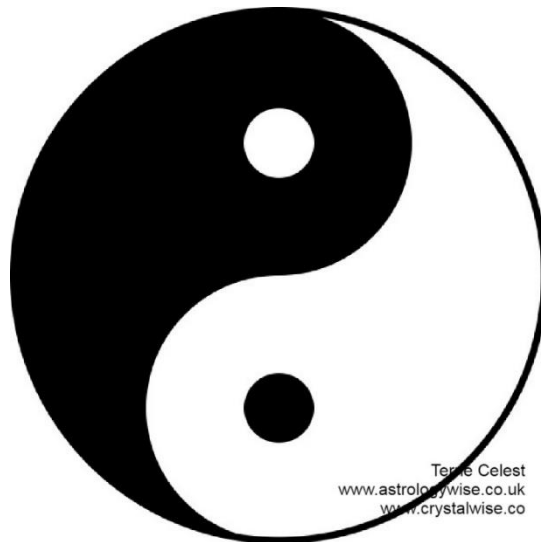
After some muddly and testing astrology from 4th to 8th, 10th has much more positive potential with a very helpful trine between the Sun and retrograde Chiron whilst Venus also has good connections to the Nodes. Both Chiron and the Nodes can show us karma and these positive interactions will help us to see old patterns and to implement the new responses and patterns that we are trying to cultivate instead.

More and more, we are finding who we are, what is important to us, who and what we want in our future and this will become a big energy in 2025, especially from April onwards. Often, we need to be shown what isn't working for us, what no longer resonates, what we have outgrown and what we don't want in order to find what we do. So don't get caught in those energies and thank the Universe for pointing these things out to you and take a moment to ask what the next step is.

We have a powerful Full Moon on 15th, and between now and then, if we notice what stresses us, what makes us feel anxious, unworthy, unloved, we will gain a very clear idea of what we are ready to release from the Full Moon up to the end of this astrological quarter on 21st.

Make a promise to yourself, that you will release the old to make way for the new, and that you will take either small individual steps or a great leap of faith to implement those.

You are worth it. You are worthy.



We will begin to feel Mercury slowing on 12th, getting more intense each day and there is added intensity and challenge on this day due to an opposition between Venus and Mars, the feminine and masculine archetypes of the chart. Mars is now retrograde and this will help its energies to be more reflective and hopefully less full on, bringing out the more passive side of its nature. Anger can still arise, fuelled by its impatience, need for speed and its general, fiery nature but this shouldn't be too direct, whilst its current home of Leo can show us where ego has, and is, causing problems. Generally, we will see masculine and feminine energies being presented either through our own personality, or via others and can often take the form of showing us stereotypes or others' issues, prejudices or disempowerment of either.

One thing to be aware of is that these two are in Fixed signs which can be stubborn and quite opinionated! We might see clashes between opposing opinions where both are adamant that they are right! Venus, now in Aquarius and still close to Pluto, does offer a fresh perspective, even if she might be seen, initially as rebellious. Everything old, was once something new, and human nature resists, often fearing, change so however far out an idea might seem, it could be the 180° that we don't know that we need, so it is important to open our minds to new possibilities.

And remember that different, isn't wrong, it's just different.

This is all part of a big, collective rebalancing of masculine and feminine as we move towards the Divine expression of both and unity instead of separation.

Just one relatively simple and potentially helpful connection occurs on 13th, between retrograde Mercury and Venus, and could take us into a negative mindset due to Mercury slowing, but Venus is leading the way, encouraging fresh, innovative ideas to break us out of some old thought patterns. Watch your inner dialogue and challenge it when it tells you that you can't do something or something won't work out. Ask yourself the question, *what can I do, what steps **can** I take, how can I work towards this, how can I make this happen?* A friend of mine, when stuck or unsure of an answer, writes down – *If I knew the answer, what would it be?* And then starts writing and sees what evolves!

This is about opening the mind up to joy, pleasure and orientating it to the future and abundance in all areas of our life.

And on this night, looking skywards, the Geminids meteor shower reaches its peak on 13th whilst it is the turn of Jupiter to be seen close to the almost Full Moon on 14th.



This month's Full Moon on 15th has extra potency due to Mercury changing direction on the same day. At the exact time of the Full Moon, it will be stationary, poised to go direct a few hours later and it has the air of waiting, saying, *come on, let's get going!* Hopefully we will have used its retrograde over the last three weeks to have worked out what we want to change, to have reviewed old thought and communication patterns, prejudices, issues around faith and religion, and taken notice of how, when and why we might go a bit too far at times. Excess is associated with Sagittarius' ruler, Jupiter, who doesn't have any boundaries and doesn't know when to stop, or can even be too optimistic, for example in over-spending or gambling, convinced that things will come right, the big win will come..... Focused on a bigger, brighter future, it can refuse to look at everyday life beneath its nose.

We have a week left of this astrological quarter which ends at the Winter Solstice on 21st so this Full Moon offers the perfect opportunity to release what we have identified and begin to put into place the new beliefs and mindsets that we want to embrace.

On the day of the Full Moon there is also a niggly connection between the Sun and Moon with Uranus which can bring to our attention misalignments and there might be a reluctance here, to embrace what is seen as safe and instead, to want adventure, risk and what is perceived as freedom. There is undoubtedly some reluctance to what is considered

the safe route, also some idealism to release which will peak on 18th. Whilst we can hope for some clarity then, we might get more fuzzy thinking which will take a day or two to clear.

Ask yourself what you are refusing to look at, what are you deliberately ignoring? Realising what needs to go allows us to embrace the gift of wisdom that is being offered, of uniting our experiences and knowledge.

If the thought of being a wise woman or wise man sounds boring or steeped in unwanted responsibility, then that is the mindset to change.

Embracing our deepest knowing and inner wisdom is the ultimate freedom and empowerment.

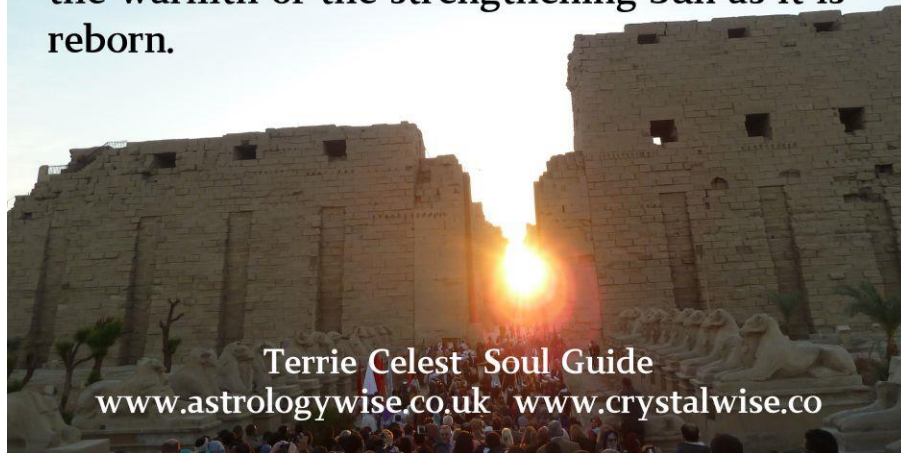
The last two days of this astrological quarter, 19th and 20th December, have Venus centre stage, firstly on 19th with a niggly connection to (now direct) Saturn and on 20th a much more helpful trine to Jupiter, still retrograde. She is encouraging positive expansion of the mind, embracing new, authentic mindsets and viewpoints that reflect the future and not the past, conditioning and idealism. Guilt also needs to be released, forgiveness embraced and to combine our spiritual nature and expression into our everyday, mundane life, blending the two, making them complementary, inseparable, intertwined, living a spiritual life in every aspect of that life.

And that for some, will seem idealistic in itself, but it is possible, and these are the two sides of ourselves. It doesn't mean talking about unicorns, dragons and angels to those we know will laugh in our faces or ridicule us, but the spiritual premise of living from an open heart, treating everyone with kindness, leading the way through example of what we could all be, if we embraced unity not separation, love not hatred, acceptance not judgement.

WINTER SOLSTICE

21st December 2024 09:20 GMT

Optimism and hope are in the air as we imagine new growth emerging from the earth, the warmth of the strengthening Sun as it is reborn.



The Solstice is on 21st December at 09:20, being the Winter Solstice here in the northern hemisphere and the Summer Solstice in the southern. For us, the Sun is at its lowest and we have the shortest day of the year, so, although it is also considered the beginning of the winter quarter, the light will soon begin to return and there is always an air of optimism, hope and renewal. We imagine new growth breaking the surface of the earth, spring colours bursting forth as the branches bud with leaf and we feel the warmth of the strengthening Sun.

Astrologically, marking the beginning of this quarter, the chart for the Solstice sets the energy for the coming three months. The exact time of the Solstice is when the Sun enters Capricorn, and regardless of which hemisphere we are in, this quarter takes us through the signs of Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces, up to the Spring Equinox in March, when the Sun enters Aries.

The Solstice astrology is a bit of a mixed bag, with the planets pretty spread out, occupying ten of the twelve signs. Saturn, ruling the Sun's new residence of Capricorn, is in opposition to the Moon. Retrogrades are Mars, Jupiter, Uranus and Chiron, with the latter going direct by the end of the month whilst Mercury is coming out of its shadow. Mars is what stands out here as it retrogrades less frequently, is one of the personal planets and rules Aries, Chiron and the North Nodes current residency. It immediately takes us to see what Venus, its feminine

counterpart is up to and I was encouraged by a lovely trine to Jupiter and this does feel that it offers a place of encouragement and area to focus on, whilst Mars is helping us to rewrite the future with regard to feeling the need to fight to solve differences. Love is trying to show us the way!

Saturn's connection will keep trying to take us back to differences and the fear that that perceived separateness fuels. One of the things that 2025 offers is the opportunity to look at our primal survival instincts and how they give rise to these fears and although that energy will really kick in from April onwards, there are hints of it here, if we are willing to look.

Nurturing trust and faith in the Universe is important and continuing the Sagittarian themes we have recently had, of stepping into our wisewoman and wiseman energies, finding the wisdom in our experiences. In many ways, on our ascension path, we have already been through the dark night of the Soul and are entering the next phase of an awakening of, or on, our spiritual path when we can leave aspects of duality behind, when we are no longer torn apart between the higher mind, striving for spiritual enlightenment and our lower, human, personality desires.

One thing Mars does offer is free will, and it is, of course, up to us, whether we embrace that path and continue to move forward. Much is about our perspective, what we choose to see, what we choose to focus on.

Are we seeing the darkness, the separation and the fear?

Or are we seeing the hope, the love, the unity?

Immediately after the Solstice we have the waning half Moon, marking the mid-way point between the Full Moon (15th) and the upcoming New Moon on 30th. We do have two New Moons this month but astrologically, this does not have any added significance, it is purely a man-made calendar phenomenon. As the Sun has just entered a new sign, Capricorn, it also immediately connects with Pluto which, due to its slow pace is still at the beginning of Aquarius, having finally made its last transition into this sign on 19th November.

Today's connection is a niggly one that will test the old, the customary, against the new and future-oriented. Do we want to follow the rules, to

be conformist or to forge new pathways, maybe even make our own rules? There is also a challenging aspect brewing for the morning of the 23rd, between the karmic Nodes and the Sun and it is important that we find some sort of balance over the coming days, especially if we are having festive get togethers with family. On paper, the idea sounds wonderful, but for many, it is challenging and we can end up giving all our energy outwards, trying to do too much, and neglect ourselves.

We need to find ways to practise some sort of self-care, even if only in small ways, as time permits, but the message is clear to not neglect ourselves and not to overstretch ourselves.

I have already mentioned that it is important that we don't neglect or overstretch ourselves and this continues into 25th, when we could feel that we really want some 'me' time, much as we love everyone, of course.

If you start to feel a bit frazzled, try to find a positive outlet for that energy, maybe play an energetic game with the kids or go outside and run up and down the garden for a minute or two. The vital thing here, is to not let frustrations brew and grow as there is a testing opposition between Mercury and Jupiter, also building for the morning of 26th and then on 27th Mercury squares with Saturn, both bringing mental and communication challenges and tension. This is the third connection that Mercury and Saturn have had and therefore might bring some welcome resolution bringing a positive breakthrough in terms of communication but there is also the danger that Jupiter could fail to put the brakes on when outspoken, and sometimes blunt, Sagittarius (Mercury) expresses itself.

Speaking up and being blunt isn't always a bad thing and if someone has always found it difficult to speak up, that might be how they first break out of that pattern. However, if we can, we do need to bear in mind the three filters I have been drumming on about with Mercury in this sign, those of:-

Is it true?

Is it necessary?

Is it kind?



Chiron is slowing and we will feel that tension building, but the good news is that it will be going direct on 29th, the day before the second New Moon of the month. Before that, on 27th, Venus and retrograde Uranus square and this could trigger old fears fuelled by not feeling safe or secure. We need to watch our thoughts and the feminine aspect of our nature could be challenged, especially if we feel different in some way. Venus does move quickly however, and this is quite a fleeting connection but will show us something to note and look into in the future, if not now.

Chiron shows us a deep, karmic wound and will therefore have a karmic influence on what is occurring for us. Hopefully we can spot the old wound and seek an alternative path, but don't worry if you aren't yet able to do that, as its retrograde job may have been to make you aware of a wound that you can again, look into at another time.

We will be in the dark of the Moon, just before the New Moon in Capricorn so we need to be aware that this can show us shadow energies like shame, guilt and fear, those negative thoughts and feelings that we keep most deeply hidden and are most reluctant to share, for fear of making ourselves vulnerable.

When the New Moon and the light dawns, those feelings will fade so don't get lost in their despair. Shining a light on these parts of ourselves that we feel shame for, helps to break the cycle and if we can find the

courage to speak about them, they lose their power to control us, seen in the light of day, they are never as bad as we thought. Here, we can practise some tender self-care, self-love, self-appreciation and self-forgiveness.



he second New Moon of December is on 30th and astrologically, this has no added significance. However, in thinking about our man-made calendars, what it does do is to bring in those New Moon energies freshly into the New Year and 31st has a couple of lovely connections. One of these is between Pluto and the Nodes, bringing a big dose of transformational energies and retrograde Mars will have a similar connection to the Nodes on 2nd. Together they form a very hopeful configuration, given that Mars is the warrior planet and associated with war.

Mercury makes its third positive connection to Chiron which went direct the day before as it climbs out of its shadow and that can only be a positive step on the road towards ending an old karmic wound. So I felt very encouraged by the positive connections here and hope that I am not falling into the Sagittarian (Mercury) trait of being too optimistic and ignoring the details!

It is a New Moon after all and two days before the New Year, so we have to focus on the positives and find new ways forward. Even if it is one step at a time, that's how Saturn, Capricorn's ruler, would have us do it. Just put one foot in front of the other, no big gestures, no rushing, just steady, planned progress.

Times and dates based on BST.

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