

The Peace Light from Bethlehem

Ideas for including the Peace Light in your Programme at Christmas

The Peace Light from Bethlehem can be useful in reminding us of the spiritual dimension of Scouting, it can also help us to look outward to include those around us who do not have families or friends to share this season of Christmas.

Liturgical Suggestions:

For those Groups who are part of Parish or Faith community the Peace Light can be incorporated into any number of services or activities planned this Christmas, for example:

Many Churches and Faith centres across Europe have a lighted Peace Light as part of their Crib. If your local places of worship have a Crib speak with the parish Administrator or faith centre leader and ask can the Peace Light be incorporated into whatever service they have planned?

The Peace Light could form part of the offertory procession at the beginning of the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve or as part of the Service of Holy Communion or Even Song.

Roman Catholic Parishes have Sanctuary Lamps, speak with the administrator and ask if the Sanctuary Lamp can be lit with a light taken from the Peace Light.

Other Christian denominations might like to light their Pascal Candle from the Peace Light flame.

Another suggestion is to incorporate the light into the Service of Reconciliation – many Parishes have such a service in the run up to Christmas.

The flame of the Peace Light could be used to light the 4 candles of the advent wreath on the 4th Sunday of Advent

Jewish families might like to light the Shabbat Candle from the Peace Light on the eve of the Shabbat Friday night dinner.

In the spirit of the above suggestions other faith and belief fellowships may have alternative approaches to promoting the concept of Peace within their communities.

Social / Community Suggestions:

Bring the Peace Light to marginalised people living in your area.

Organise a 'tea party' for elderly people in your area and introduce the Peace Light.

Hold a candle lit carol service in a local hospital or residential home.

Take a lighted candle or lantern to someone who is sick [remember to speak with the family first]

Local places to bring your Peace Light: Homeless Shelter; Care Home; Day-Care centre; Fire Station; Garda Station or Hospice, etc.,

Ideas for section meetings or Group Activities

The young people in your Group could each make a candle carrier, consisting of a jam jar decorated with glass paint having a string handle – when finished insert a tea light. Discuss the *Safety Guidelines when transporting the Peace Light*

Hold a group have a group sing song of carols, Cubs/Scouts could take the light home in their 'candle carriers'

Hold a Carol Service with the Peace Light as a centre piece, collect for a local charity or good cause

The young people in your Group could create an Art display using Peace as a theme, incorporated into your Group service in the Den or place of worship.

Create a large drawing surface using lining paper or flip chart paper taped together draw a map of Europe and the Middle East - using the '*Story of the Peace Light from Bethlehem*' trace its journey from Bethlehem to your Den.

Each youth member could make a Christmas Card with a Message of Peace to be given to elderly people in your locality.

The Christmas story is about a Family taking a journey to a foreign place – do you have immigrant families in your town or parish? Discuss how your group could make them welcome this Christmas and put your ideas into action.

Create the profile of a Christmas tree - write a peace message and hang it on the tree.

Write a 'Post' on the *Peace Light from Bethlehem Ireland* facebook page, telling us what you did in your area: track how many lights were taken /passed on from your Peace Light.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1655485614707631/>