

Story of the Peace Light from Bethlehem 2018

An eternal flame 'burns' in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, on the West Bank.

On Wednesday 12th of December a light from that flame will be taken by local Israeli and Palestinian Scouts, and given to a Scout from Austria who will bring it to Vienna.

On Saturday, December the 16th, an ecumenical service of distribution will be held in Vienna. Hundreds of flames from the Peace Light will be taken by Scouts from many National and International Scout Associations who will take it to different parts of World. One such Flame will travel in a lantern across Europe and which will be distributed along the way to Austrian, Swiss, French and UK Scouts, who in turn will spread the light to all that they meet.

On Sunday 16th an ecumenical ceremony of distribution will be held in Canterbury Cathedral and the Light will then begin being distributed by road and the Rail Network across England, Scotland, Wales, and the Isle of Mann.

On Tuesday 18th of December a lighted flame will be left for us in the Church of St Mary, Help of Christians in Holyhead North Wales, by members of the Deep-Sea Scouts, Scout Association UK and representatives of Irish Scouting travelling on Stena Line Ferries, will bring the flame [storms or gales permitting] across the Irish Sea to Dublin.

Getting the light each year to Ireland is a challenge - the security gates to Bethlehem can be closed by the Israeli Security Forces, inclement weather can ground aircraft, storms can prevent ferry crossings of the Irish sea - the journey our light travels is full of uncertainty - just like the journey we commemorate, when 2,000 years ago the Holy Family travelled from their home in Nazareth to the Grotto in the town of Bethlehem where the baby Jesus was born.

On Thursday 20th December, approximately 350 young Scouts from different parts of Dublin, surrounding Counties and as far away as Co Cork, together with people from the local community will gather at 7.30pm in the Church of Holy Cross College, Clonliffe to participate in the Dublin Service of Distribution, where prayers, readings and singing will be led entirely by young people. At this service, like that held in Vienna, Scouts and representatives from other youth organisations will take the flame away to their homes for distribution in their own locality. Please click [HERE](#) for: Safety Guidelines when transporting the Peace Light

On Friday, the 21st the Flame will travel, with the assistance of Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail, to the main line stations of: Wexford; Waterford; Cork; Limerick; Galway; Sligo and Belfast, to be met by members of Scouting Ireland who will distribute it locally to the general public and places of worship; residential homes; hostels; hospitals and places of care in their community. Please click [HERE](#) for: Ideas for including the Peace Light in your Programme.

The Flame will journey by road on Saturday to Monaghan Cathedral, where after a short service of distribution at 11.00am, Scouts from Derry will take the Flame to the Ulster North West and other places in North of Ireland. Scouts living in the north midlands and boarder counties will also attended and bring the Light home to share with their communities. Please click [HERE](#) for: Organise your own Peace Light Service

Scouting Ireland is a member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement - during the Peace Light week millions of Scouts through the World will handle the Peace Light. Irish Scouts will play their part in the distribution of the Peace Light from Bethlehem taking it to places across the length and breadth of Ireland.

The Peace Light will be delivered in the late afternoon to our Contacts at the following Provincial centres: Wexford, Waterford, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Sligo and Belfast, on Friday 21st next

If you would like to take the Peace Light from Bethlehem for your Group, email Gerry Glynn at gga1600@gmail.com and we will put you in touch with our nearest contact to you – please do remember to mention your location.

You can follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1655485614707631/>