



**MAYOR'S PARLOUR  
CITY HALL  
GIBRALTAR**

No: 839/2012

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**BETHLEHEM LIGHT OF PEACE**

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December, His Worship the Mayor, Anthony Lima MBE RD\*, will be receiving the Bethlehem Light of Peace on behalf of the people of Gibraltar at the City Hall, 11.00am. The Light will again be presented by the Scouts' Association (Gibraltar Branch), following their collection from the Movimiento Scouts Catolicos in Cordoba.

The Scouts and Guides will then take the light on to other Churches and places of public or cultural importance with the aim of including as many people as possible and delivering them the light and peace message. This message intends to encourage everyone, especially Scouts and Guides, to actively create peace in their environment by being tolerant towards people of different ethnic, cultural, political or religious groups.

The Peace Light from Bethlehem campaign, now in its 25th year, was originally organised by the Austrian Broadcasting Company - ORF (Linz) - and was part of a large charitable relief mission - Light into Darkness, for children in need in Austria and abroad. Since 1986, there has been a great deal of co-operation between Scouts and Guides in many countries which has allowed the light to travel throughout 23 European Countries and for the past few years on to North America, Mexico and Canada. Each year, a child from Upper Austria kindles a flame from the "Eternal Flame" from the Nativity Grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. The light is then flown to Austria where it is distributed at a Service of Dedication to delegations from across Europe who, with a message of Peace, deliver the light to their own countries for use at ecumenical services throughout the Continent.

**A Scout's Christmas Wish**

***So may this light of peace today that has travelled many miles,  
Bring joy and hope to many, and fill each face with smiles.  
So may every heart and home continue through the year,  
To feel the warmth and wonder of this season of good cheer.  
And may it bring us closer to God and to each other,  
With every stranger known as friend, whether Sister or a Brother***