



**MAYOR'S PARLOUR
CITY HALL
GIBRALTAR**

PRESS RELEASE

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BETHLEHEM LIGHT OF PEACE

On Wednesday 18th December, at 10:30 am, at the City Hall, His Worship the Mayor, Anthony Lima MBE RD*RNR, will be receiving the Bethlehem Light of Peace on behalf of the people of Gibraltar. The Light will be presented by the Scouts' Association (Gibraltar Branch), as has now become traditional, following its collection, this year, from the Movimiento Scouts Catolicos in Sevilla. This year His Worship cordially invites members of the general public who may wish to avail themselves the opportunity of taking a light from the light may do so between the hours of 10.30am and 1pm.

Scouts and Guides will then take the light on to other Churches and places of public or cultural importance – indeed, to anybody that appreciates the significance of the "gift". The aim of the campaign is to include as many people as possible and to take them the light and peace message, which encourages everyone, but especially Scouts and Guides, to actively create peace in their environment by being tolerant towards people of different ethnic, cultural, political or religious groups.

His Worship the Mayor and Mrs Lima take this opportunity to wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Note to Editors:

Now in its 26th year, the Peace Light from Bethlehem campaign 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 Europe, such that the light is passed on 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 from where it is distributed at a Service of Dedication to delegations from

across Europe who take it back, with a message of Peace, 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***