

## KS1 Learning Resource: Candles



# Candles at Birmingham Cathedral

**Why are there so many candles in the cathedral? What are the different types?**

**What are they for?**

**What do they symbolise for Christians?**



# 01 Different types of candles at Birmingham Cathedral



Votive Candles on a candle stand. Worshippers and visitors light candles every day and say prayers. Prayers can be for thankfulness, hope, joy and comfort.



Pascal or Easter candle. This is a new candle every year on Easter Sunday. When Christians remember that Jesus rose from the dead. It is lit for baptisms and on Sunday services.



Altar Candles. These two candles are lit for every service of worship that takes place. The choir stall candles are lit at services when the choir sing.

## 02 | What are the candles for?

Candles are used to provide light but in a bright building with windows and electric lights why do we use candles?

Candles symbolise light and hope and joy.

They can help provide a focus for worship and prayer.

Candles have a very special meaning for Christian people. These are people who follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Candles are lit at Baptisms, an important event where children, and adults, enter the church and commit to god. Candles are given as a gift to remind the person of this important occasion in their life.

At Easter time and Christmas time we have special candles in the cathedral

Candles come in different shapes and sizes. They can be plain, decorated, small or large. Sometimes they have a candle holder.



## 03 What do candles symbolise for Christians?

For Christian people the use of candles related directly to their belief that Jesus is the Light of the World. In the Bible it is recorded that Jesus said “I am the light of the world”.

Jesus symbolises hope in the darkest and most difficult of times and following his teachings will lead us from darkness to light. For Christians, candlelight is a symbol of this.

When Christians pray they often use candles. They can pray privately and quietly, anywhere but often in church, a bit like a conversation with god. They sometimes recite prayers that have already been such as The Lord’s Prayer and sometimes they prayer together by singing hymns and songs that glorify god.

