

## **Decorate a Candle**

**Find:** a candle with flat sides, wax pens

Use the wax pens to decorate the sides of the candle. Leave to dry.

Light and pray that god's light will be known to all people.

## **Make an encouragement card - a 'God bless you' card**

Encourage others with a special message

You will need: coloured card, felt tips/pencils, stickers, sparkles, envelopes.

Simeon blessed baby Jesus. That means he prayed for God's blessing on him. We can pray for God's blessing on people, too. It could be for someone who needs God's love, his help or protection, or to feel God's presence.

- Think of someone for whom they would like to pray God's blessing.
- Make a card, saying 'God Bless You', and write a special message in the card.
- Give the card to the person (socially distanced or through the post) and pray that God will bless them every day this week.

## Make a Prayer Light Tube

This is a fun way to celebrate Jesus as the light of the world, especially at Candlemas.

Traditionally at Candlemas (or the Presentation of Christ), the passage from Luke 2 where Simeon and Anna meet Jesus is read with the famous lines: "Now, Lord, you can let me, your servant, die in peace as you said. I have seen with my own eyes how you will save your people. Now all people can see your plan. He is a light to show your way to the other nations. And he will bring honour to your people Israel." (Luke 2: 29-32)

Jesus is recognised as the saviour who has come to bring light to dark situations and to show people the way.

Find: battery operated tea lights, A6 size paper, felt tip pens, glue

- Put the A6 Paper in landscape mode and draw pictures of people and places who are going through dark, hard times and need to see some light and hope.
- Wrap the paper around the tea light and glue down the edge to make a tube.
- Ask Jesus to bring his light and hope to these people and situations.
- Switch off the lights and switch the tea lights on. Look at the light shining through the situations as a sign that they have been handed to Jesus. Tell Jesus about the people if you like.

## **Make a Quick and Simple Candlemas Candle Cake**

Find: A Swiss roll, some thick buttercream, a cocktail stick, some paper, red/orange/yellow pens, paper plates, scissors, tape.

- Place the Swiss roll vertically on the plate.
- Use the buttercream to cover the cake.
- Make a flame with some paper on a cocktail stick.
- Enjoy sharing the cake, and enjoy sharing the light of Christ.

## St Brigid Cross

### You Will Need

16 Reeds (or Straws or strips of paper)

4 small rubber bands/string or wool/staples

Scissors

### What to Do

- Hold one of the reeds vertically. Fold a second reed in half as in the diagram.
- Place the first vertical reed in the centre of the folded second reed.
- Hold the centre overlap tightly between thumb and forefinger.
- Turn the two rushes held together 90 degrees anti-clockwise so that the open ends of the second reed are pointing vertically upwards.
- Fold a third reed in half and over both parts of the second reed to lie horizontally from left to right against the first straw. Hold tight.
- Holding the centre tightly, turn the three reeds 90 degrees anti-clockwise so that the open ends of the third reed are pointing upwards.
- Fold a new reed in half over and across all the rushes pointing upwards.
- Repeat the process of rotating all the rushes 90 degrees anti-clockwise, adding a new folded reed each time until all rushes have been used up to make the cross.
- Secure the arms of the cross with elastic bands. Trim the ends to make them all the same length. The St Brigid's Cross is now ready to hang.



