

# Safe Alternatives to Lighting a Candle in Church



**Anglican  
Diocese of  
Dunedin**

[www.calledsouth.org.nz](http://www.calledsouth.org.nz)



## Why Alternatives?

In some church settings, open flames cannot be left unattended. These alternatives offer safe and meaningful ways to symbolise prayer, remembrance, and the presence of Christ, without risk.



## LED Candle Options

- Battery-powered tealights — placed on a prayer table; people may switch one on.
- Rechargeable LED pillar candles — can be set on timers for daily use.
- Electronic votive stand — visitors press a button to light an LED candle.

## Symbolic Prayer Alternatives

- Place a pebble, shell, or coloured bead in a bowl — a visible prayer offering.
- Paper 'flame' prayer slips — write intentions and place in a display bowl or board.
- LED lantern — left glowing as a continuous prayer symbol.
- Digital candle image — displayed on screen or kiosk in prayer corner.

## Suggested Sign/Liturgy Wording

"You are invited to switch on a candle (or place a stone) as a sign of your prayer.

These lights continue before God even when we are not here, reminding us that our prayers dwell in God's presence."