*Southern Cross Church Supplies*

**CARING FOR YOUR CANDLE**

* **Before** **lighting** your candle, always **trim** the wick to **6mm** and remove any wick debris and blackened wick ends. This encourages an even burn while helping to eliminate dripping and smoking.
* **Burn time**: always burn a pillar candle for **1 hour** per 2.5cm (1 inch) of its diameter. This allows a wax pool to develop, preventing craters; and will minimise dripping, running and possible candle collapse. A **wide** candle, e.g. 5cm or more, needs to burn for at least an hour so that the candle will burn out to the sides --- thus preventing a “burrowing” into the centre of the candle.
* **Positioning your candle**: candles burn best in **still** **air**. Moving air, caused by *draughts, fans, air conditioners and convection heat sources* (e.g. wall heaters) may cause rapid and uneven burning, wastage, smoking, and possible candle collapse.
* **Extinguishing your candle**: use a **candle snuffer**. The best way to extinguish candles is with a candle snuffer. This prevents liquid wax from splattering, and stops the wick from continuing to glow and smoke.
* **Remove debris** from the top of the candle: debris such as *wick* *fibres*, *moths* and *insects*, any *blackened wick material*, match *fragments*. This debris can catch alight to form **secondary flames**, and it is possible for these to burn out to the side of the candle, causing a blowout in the wall of the candle ---- the blowout then results in hot wax pouring out of the candle onto the table or floor below. This makes for a potential fire hazard, not to mention the mess that results.
* If your candle has burnt down into the middle, **before** re-**lighting** it, **trim** the side wall to restore the surface of the candle to a **flat** and **level** condition.
* **Never** leave a burning candle **unattended**.
* Keep candles and matches out of reach of children and pets**.**

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