**Easter candles**

In Greece, the Resurrection Mass takes place on the night of Holy Saturday. Just before midnight everyone gathers at church with their Easter candles (or ‘lambades’ in Greek) which they buy or decorate on their own for the special night.

A few minutes before midnight, all the lights are turned off (as a symbol of Jesus’ descending to the kingdom of death) and a moment later the priest exits the altar holding candles lit by the Holy Light, which is distributed to everyone inside and outside the church. At midnight, the priest exits the church and announces the Resurrection of Jesus. “Christos Anesti”, or Christ Has Risen!

Bells ring out to proclaim the Resurrection and fireworks go off and the dark night is filled with light and colourful explosions. Each person carefully carries their lit candle home in order to bless their home by drawing a cross with the flame above the entrance.

Below you can see photos of the school teachers making the Easter candles for the Erasmus Partners as well as for the kids that they are being treated in hospital; a small symbolic gesture with a great emotional impact that may even contribute to their treatment.













