



Ideas and Dates for the Diary - November

November 1st - All Saints' Day (This year it's celebrated on Sunday 2nd)

On All Saints' Day, Roman Catholics and other Christians use this day to honour all the saints in Christian history, especially those who don't have their own special feast day. Why not use this time in your Mini Vinnies' meetings to explore the life of St Vincent de Paul, or St Louise de Marillac, using our new starter resources? Why not get the Mini Vinnies to create bookmarks with a favourite saint on, to share with others the impact they made on the world?



November 11th - Remembrance Day

Use a Mini Vinnies' meeting time before this date to make paper poppies to create a wreath they could present at a Remembrance service.

November 13th - World Kindness Day

World Kindness Day is an annual event that encourages individuals to practice kindness in their daily lives. Could the Mini Vinnies teach others in school the importance of kindness and empathy through storytelling or a classroom activity? They might like to come up with some random acts of kindness that they could do at school on that day, or think of ideas in their meeting to share positivity in school.



November 10th - 14th - Anti-Bullying Week

If you have a Mini Vinnies' meeting this week, come together to have discussions about what can be done to stop bullying. Together, the Mini Vinnies can lead the way in school to make a difference and take a stand against bullying. What ideas can they come up with to do this in school?

November 20th - Universal Children's Day

Our Vincentian family includes members from as young as six and seven years old, to those in their nineties. Could your Mini Vinnies come up with ideas on how to celebrate children in their community? Why not make some [cards for children](#) in the local parish, or write a prayer to share with the school in assembly?



November 21st - World Youth Sunday Livestream for schools

World Youth Sunday (23rd) celebrates the place of young people in the life and mission of the Church. The SVP will be joining CYMFed's Livestream for schools on **Friday 21st**

November for their Celebration of the Jubilee Year. The SVP will be exploring our theme of To the Heights during this event. [Register your group here](#) and come and join the fun.

November 23rd - The Feast of Christ the King

Originally a Roman Catholic feast, it is now observed by Christians of all denominations as a way to recognise and honour Jesus Christ as the 'King of Kings.' Why not contact the parish to see how the Mini Vinnies could get involved in Mass on the Feast of Christ the King, which is also World Youth Sunday?



November 24th - SVP Reverse Advent Calendar

This Advent, let's give rather than get! Each day, Mini Vinnies add an item to a hamper - food, toiletries, or small treats - to share with those who need it most in your community. By the end of Advent, the hamper becomes a gift of love and hope for others in our community. Plan in advance who these will be gifted to.



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

✉ youngvincentians@svp.org.uk

☎ 020 7703 3030

Registered charity number 1053992

A company limited by guarantee: 3174679



Ideas and Dates for the Diary – November/ December



November 28th – Celebrate the feast of St Catherine Labouré

Join us on 28th November in celebrating the feast of St. Catherine Labouré, a Daughter of Charity, an order formed by St Vincent de Paul. This beautiful resource, featuring art work from First Saturday, introduces children to St. Catherine Labouré and the Miraculous Medal, helping them understand its significance and reflect on faith and humility.

November 30th – 1st Sunday of Advent

We are continuing to update our Mini Vinnies Spiritual Reflection Guides for activities for each Sunday of Advent! For each week of the liturgical year, the Spiritual Reflection Guides provide notes for leaders and children relating the week's scripture readings with the Mini Vinnies or Vincentian experience. Use these Guides to help participants to deepen their understanding of the scriptures, whilst encouraging practical steps to live out their faith. Year B will soon be on its way on the website!



December 3rd – Make a Gift Day

Why not encourage your Mini Vinnies to try their hand at creating something that can be given as a gift? Everyone has some sort of skill that they can turn to producing something made with personal care, and attention. This might be card-making, knitting, painting or photography. These gifts could be collected together to distribute to the local parish, or why not have a Mini Vinnie Craft stall at your Christmas fair?

December 5th – International Volunteers' Day

This date offers a chance to acknowledge and celebrate the remarkable achievements of volunteers, and to reflect on the impact of the work of volunteers on society. Why not invite in an SVP member or your regional Young Vincentian Development Officer (YVDO), to share with the children a bit more about their experience of volunteering with the SVP? Could your Mini Vinnies come up with ideas of how to thank volunteers that come into school to support school life?



December 14th – Jubilee of Prisoners

Our new resource: Remember me – An SVP response to prison work helps Mini Vinnies learn about the SVP's work with people in prison and their families, especially as we approach the **Jubilee of Prisoners on December 14th**. Packed with simple ideas, stories, and prayers, it encourages children to show care, hope, and kindness, reminding everyone that no one is ever forgotten. The resource can be used in bite-sized sessions, tailored to your group and how you meet. It also helps answer a question we're often asked as an organisation: Why does the SVP help people in prison?

Mini Vinnies Christmas Card Competition 2025

Get creative this Christmas by entering our Mini Vinnies Christmas Card Competition. The winning entry will have their card professionally printed and sold in next year's SVP Christmas catalogue. They will also receive some goodies to continue using their gift of creativity. This year's theme is 'Joy to the Heights', and there are accompanying resources to prepare the children for their creative task. Closing date is 31st January 2026.



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

✉ youngvincentians@svp.org.uk

☎ 020 7703 3030

Registered charity number 1053992

A company limited by guarantee: 3174679



Ideas and Dates for the Diary – December



Recycle your Christmas cards

Could your Mini Vinnies put a call-out to others to bring in the fronts of last year's Christmas cards? In a meeting get them to think of ideas of things they could use them for to prep for next Christmas- gift tags, new cards, prayer cards etc.

Prayer Intentions

Using old Christmas card fronts, cut them out into different shapes or with crinkle-cut scissors. Give each child one card and get them to write the name of someone or a particular group of people they would like to pray for – perhaps homeless people or those suffering food poverty. Once they have their intentions on each card, peg them on a string across the classroom and each day of Advent, take one card down and pray for the intentions of that person or group of people as a class that day.



Straw for Baby Jesus

Create a manger from a shoebox. Children add a piece of straw upon doing good works in class or at school. Baby Jesus can be added on the last day of term.

Advent Acts of Kindness

This is something that could be prepped in class and taken home to do, or it could be displayed in the classroom. From the star template, each day the children can add a paper chain link on which they write an act of kindness they have done that day. By Christmas Day, that should have a long paperchain of small acts of kindness. [Click here](#) to get your copy.



Fundraise for the SVP this Christmas

The SVP provides a wide range of support to people in need, from winter items for the homeless to food parcels for families. The cost of living crisis has highlighted new levels of support we can provide with your help. Why not come up with a fundraiser to raise money for this year's SVP Christmas Appeal? More information can be found on our website.



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

✉ youngvincentians@svp.org.uk

☎ 020 7703 3030

Registered charity number 1053992

A company limited by guarantee: 3174679



Ideas and Dates for the Diary-January

January 1st- World Day of Peace

World Day of Peace, celebrated on January 1 every year, is primarily a Catholic feast day dedicated to universal peace on the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. On this occasion, the Pope generally makes authoritative declarations on the Catholic Social Teachings (C.S.T.). Although you will not be in school with your Mini Vinnies on this date, you might like to reflect on the Pope's message when back at school to unpack with the Mini Vinnies as to how that message will help them on their mission with the SVP. You could also invite your Mini Vinnies to create some posters with the heading "Peace be with you" (Jn 20:19), depicting what this means to them?



New Year's resolutions

Use this month to unpack with your Mini Vinnies what New Year's resolutions are. What goals could you set as a group that makes the most of the fresh start that the New Year brings? How can you ensure you are continuing to follow in Christ's footsteps to live out the Mini Vinnies' mission of *See, Think, Do*? This might be a good time to review the Mini Vinnies' Pledge and set some goals around that. Why not use our [Kindness Calendar](#) to kick start the year?



January 19th -Brew Monday

This annual awareness day encourages people to connect with others over a cup of tea or coffee. It aims to combat loneliness and provide emotional support, especially during the winter months when people may be feeling more isolated. Could your Mini Vinnies plan a coffee morning, or afternoon tea for parishioners to attend? Why not use our [Gather the SVP Family resources](#) to help plan an event?



January 24th - International Day of Education

A celebration of the role of education for peace and development. Invite your Mini Vinnies to discuss why education is important and think about what things we should learn in order to give us the skills, values and mindsets ready to tackle the world's biggest challenges. What topic could they share with others at school to raise awareness and teach their peers about? Why not invite them to [do an assembly](#) on their chosen subject?



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

✉ youngvincentians@svp.org.uk

☎ 020 7703 3030

Registered charity number 1053992

A company limited by guarantee: 3174679



Ideas and Dates for the Diary-February

February 2nd – Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

The Presentation of the Lord is always celebrated 40 days after Christmas and brings the season of Christmas to an end. Why not read about it in our updated Mini Vinnies Spiritual Reflection Guide? With reflections and activities, it's a great resource to explore scripture and put our faith into action.



February 7th – Feast of Bl Rosalie Rendu

Blessed Rosalie Rendu was a French Catholic member of the Daughters of Charity who organized care for the poor in Paris. She helped Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and his friends turn their concern into action. You and your Mini Vinnies can find out more about her amazing work on our [website](#) and see what you can learn from her.

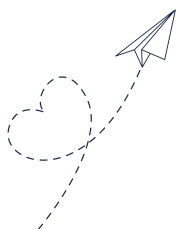


February 11th – Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day for the sick

On Feb. 11, the Catholic Church celebrates the liturgical memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, recalling a series of 18 appearances that the Blessed Virgin Mary made to a 14-year-old French peasant girl, Saint Bernadette Soubirous. Explore this story with your Mini Vinnies. St Bernadette is the patron saint of illness, so the Church also acknowledges World Day for the Sick on the 11th. Perhaps your Mini Vinnies can make cards for those who are unwell in your community. Why not contact your local parish priest and make some cards for those on the parish sick list?

February 14th – Valentine's Day

February is a month to show love, and while Valentine's Day is on the 14th, it's a great time to spread kindness. Consider making [cards of kindness](#) or writing letters for those isolated in your community or parish. Check with local care homes, nursing homes, churches, or SVP community support centres to see where help is needed and get creative!



February 17th – Random Acts of Kindness Day

This awareness day is the perfect opportunity for your Mini Vinnies to use our [Chain of Kindness resource](#). Each time they do something kind today or this week, they can write it on a paper chain link. See how many chains of kindness they can make!

February 18th – April 2nd– SVP Lenten Campaign

Every Lent, the SVP focuses on an area of our social justice work to raise awareness and take action. Keep an eye out on the Mini Vinnies website for when the Lenten resources for 2026 are launched.



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

✉ youngvincentians@svp.org.uk

☎ 020 7703 3030

Registered charity number 1053992

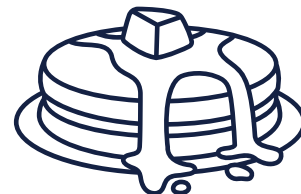
A company limited by guarantee: 3174679



Ideas and Dates for the Diary- February/March

February 17th- Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday, also called Pancake Day, is the day before Lent starts on Ash Wednesday. This is our tradition of using up what's left in the cupboards before fasting for Lent. Perhaps you and your Mini Vinnies can make some pancakes together, and serve them at a coffee-morning! Or how about a pancake flip-a-thon to raise money for the SVP?



February 18th- Ash Wednesday/Beginning of Lent

Lent is a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving (charity). This week, your Mini Vinnies could focus on what they can give to others during Lent. Make sure you check out our Jubilee Lent Resources, including a Reconciliation service, our Lenten Campaign and much more, on our website. In addition to our Jubilee Lent resources, why not explore our Lent calendar?

March 5th - World Book Day

World Book Day is a celebration of the joy of reading, and a call for universal access to reading. Why don't your Mini Vinnies do a book collection? They could bring in books that they don't need anymore and you could give them to those in need, through school, a local charity or an SVP conference. Why not visit a local care home to read to residents? Or have 'Reading Buddies' at school or in the parish.



March 8th - International Women's Day

International Women's Day is a global day, celebrating the achievements of women and a call to action for equality. It has been celebrated since the early 1900s! Our Vincentian patrons and founders include 2 amazing women: Bl Rosalie Rendu and St Louise de Marillac. You and your Mini Vinnies could use this day to celebrate these women and learn more about them in our starter session: **"Strong Women of the SVP"!**

March 15th- Mother's Day

Let's celebrate all mothers and motherly figures today! Your Mini Vinnies could write a card or make a crafty present for their mothers or someone they look up to. This can also be a time for them to think about how they can show kindness to the motherly figures in their life. Why not use this time too to focus on our heavenly mother-Mary, the mother of God?



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

✉ youngvincentians@svp.org.uk

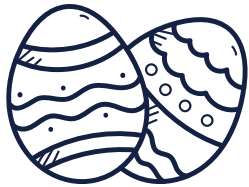
☎ 020 7703 3030

Registered charity number 1053992

A company limited by guarantee: 3174679



Ideas and Dates for the Diary-April



April 5th- Easter Sunday

This Easter let's celebrate by bringing gifts of joy to others! Perhaps you could do a collection of chocolate Easter eggs to give to those in need in your local community. Why not create a display board at school with posters to celebrate the Resurrection? What message of Hope could your Mini Vinnies come up with write and share with others?

April 21st- National Tea Day

It's time to celebrate our longstanding relationship with tea and spread some kindness too! Share with the Mini Vinnies that Britain consumes more than 60 billion cups a year! What better way to celebrate than to organise an afternoon tea event for parishioners or volunteers in school. Our [Gather the Family](#) resources are a great go-to for events like this. You might even like to combine this with your celebrations for the birthdays of our patron and founder, St Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam.



April 22nd- Earth Day

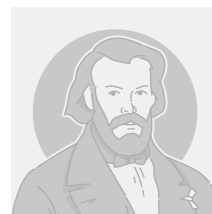
Each year on April 22, more than a billion people celebrate Earth Day. Part of the Mini Vinnies' mission is to care for our world. Challenge your Mini Vinnies to mark the occasion by doing something to help the environment. This can be writing to your MP, litter picking, planting new plants at school and much more!

Happy Birthday Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and St Vincent de Paul

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam (23rd April 1813)

St Vincent de Paul (24th April 1541)

Invite your Mini Vinnies to think about how they could celebrate our patron's and founder's birthdays. It's a time to celebrate their legacy and look to the future with hope.



April 29th- International Dance Day

Can your Mini Vinnies get creative and use dance to lift spirits? How about a sponsored dance? Or leading a wake up and shake up for the school?

April 29th- Stop Food Waste Day

It's estimated that 32% of all food purchased per year in the UK is not eaten. This has a big impact on people and the environment. Can your Mini Vinnies think of ways to reduce food waste at school or at home? How can you spread awareness in your community? Why not use our ["How to give a talk to school or parish"](#) to help plan an assembly on the topic?



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

✉ youngvincentians@svp.org.uk

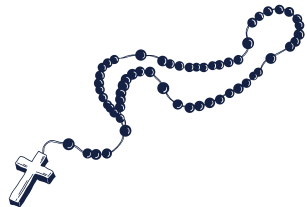
☎ 020 7703 3030

Registered charity number 1053992

A company limited by guarantee: 3174679



Ideas and Dates for the Diary-May

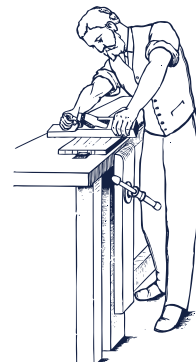


Pray the Rosary with the SVP

Our beautiful Rosary resource, adapted from the Mini Vinnies' prayer book, will be a wonderful way to celebrate the month of Mary and pray for the SVP.

May 1st- Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

St. Joseph the Worker is celebrated on May 1, as a way to honour St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus and the patron saint of workers. Perhaps you could celebrate the people who have looked after you through their work, especially those who go unnoticed.



May 11th - May 17th- Mental Health Awareness Week

How could your Mini Vinnies support children in school with their mental health? Could they create some calming boxes for others to use at playtime, or lead on an assembly to raise awareness during this week?

May 15th- International Day of Families

This day was set up by the United Nations to recognise the importance of family in communities across the world. The International Day of Families also recognises that the role of the family constantly changes and celebrates all types of families. Why not focus on the Vincentian family on this date? The Mini Vinnies could use our **'Gather the family' resources** to plan an event to bring together other members of the SVP.



May 21st -World Day for Cultural Diversity

This day is held every year on 21 May to celebrate not only the richness of the world's cultures, but also the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development. Could the Mini Vinnies plan an event at school to celebrate the diverse cultures there are in our schools?

May 24th- Pentecost

Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus Christ and also recognizes the day that the Church was established. Why not celebrate with your Mini Vinnies by completing the activity for this week's **Spiritual Reflection Guide**?



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

✉ youngvincentians@svp.org.uk

☎ 020 7703 3030

Registered charity number 1053992

A company limited by guarantee: 3174679