



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?

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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.

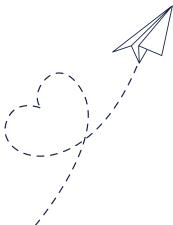


February 11th – Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day for the sick

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 Heart to Heart Lent Campaign

The SVP is inviting all schools and parishes to take part in our [SVP Heart to Heart Lent campaign](#). We are offering resources for each week of Lent, with the aim of bringing communities together and helping lift people out of loneliness.



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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 [SVP Heart to Heart Lent campaign](#) resources, with weekly activities and a creative display to get involved with!

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?



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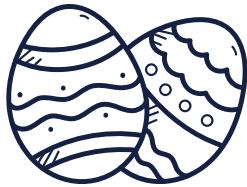
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Ideas and Dates for the Diary - April



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

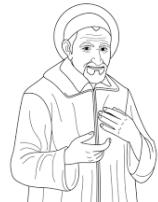
Each year on April 22, more than a billion people celebrate Earth Day. Part of the Mini Vinnies' mission is to care for our world. Challenge your Mini Vinnies to mark the occasion by doing something to help the environment. This can be writing to your MP, litter picking, planting new plants at school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



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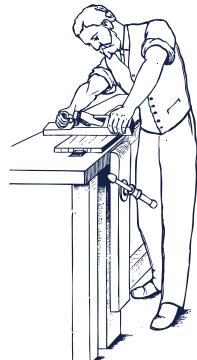


Ideas and Dates for the Diary-May



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](#)?



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Ideas and Dates for the Diary-June

June 7- The Big Lunch

The Big Lunch happens every year in the UK to bring people together, encouraging friendlier, safer communities. It's a great time for people to share ideas, skills, resources and friendship. Could your Mini Vinnies plan a big lunch in school to bring children together? Or how about an event that the local adult SVP group could be invited to? What other ideas could the children come up with to bring people together in this way that would work for your setting?



June 1-7 – **Volunteers' Week**

Volunteers' Week is a chance to recognise, celebrate and thank the UK's incredible volunteers for all they contribute to local communities, the voluntary sector, and society as a whole. Could your Mini Vinnies share with the school about their volunteering experience, or why not organise an event or make cards of thanks for those who volunteer at school or in the parish?



June 5- **World Environment Day**

People from all over the world can do something positive to help our planet. What ideas could your Mini Vinnies come up with to live out their promise of caring for God's creation? How about litter-picking in the playground that day? Why not get the Mini Vinnies to plan an awareness raising assembly about recycling?



June 5- **Thank you Day**

This day first came about in 2021 to appreciate the unsung heroes in local communities who contributed their time and resources to making life better for people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Every year it now gives people a chance to thank those unsung heroes in their communities that make a big difference. Why not get the Mini Vinnies to think of ideas for thanking those in their communities?

June 15-21 – **Refugee Week**

The theme for Refugee Week 2025 is "Community as a Super Power". A chance to focus on our collective power to shape hopeful futures. The [SVP Forget-me-not campaign](#) encourages our Young Vincentians to reflect and learn about the experiences of people seeking sanctuary in our country. Why not explore these resources, which can easily be adapted for this week?



June 21- **World Music Day**

Do your Mini Vinnies play a musical instrument? Could they brighten up the day by planning a mini concert? Why not see if your local care home would like a visit to celebrate this day?

Perhaps they can do a rendition of the [Mini Vinnies' Song!](#)



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Ideas and Dates for the Diary-July

Plastic Free July

A global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Another great way for the Mini Vinnies to live out their promise of taking care of God's creation. What ideas can they come up with to raise awareness of this topic and make a difference at home, school or in the parish?

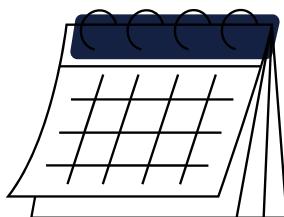


Good Care Month

This entire month is dedicated to honouring those who dedicate their lives to caring for others, especially our social care heroes! There are so many simple acts of kindness that the Mini Vinnies could do to recognise the care given by these unsung heroes – thank you cards or care packages to social care workers. What other personalized gestures of gratitude can the Mini Vinnies come up with to show these workers that their efforts are seen and appreciated?

School Leavers' Activity

Our School Leavers' activity gives children an opportunity to reflect on their time at primary school and think about their hopes and dreams for the future. If you have Mini Vinnies in Year 6, why not get them to consider how they can apply their Vincentian values in their next school?



Kindness Calendar

Print off a copy of our August Kindness Calendar for your Mini Vinnies to continue their acts of kindness during the summer holidays.

July 30- International day of friendship

The International Day of Friendship was introduced by the UN to promote friendship between countries, cultures and people. It emphasises young people's roles as future leaders in community activities focused on respect for diversity. Perhaps you can get your Mini Vinnies to plan something for this day before the end of term, like an event, or even just a promise to talk to someone new that day. Then they can write what they've done on their kindness calendar and share it at the next meeting! For those who love crafts, how about making [Vincentian bracelets](#) that you could gift others?



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Ideas and Dates for the Diary - September

September 9 and 27- The Feast Days of St Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam.

From the Feast of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam to the Feast of St Vincent de Paul, we are running a special campaign: [Tea with the SVP!](#)

Use these free resources to celebrate our Vincentian family, grow friendships across generations, and show how a simple act—a cup of tea—can make a big difference. A month-long campaign with lots to get involved in.

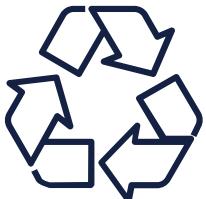
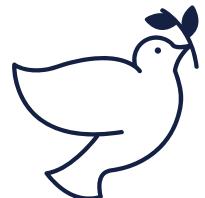


September 18- National Fitness Day

During National Fitness Day, people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities come together for a day full of active challenges. Could the Mini Vinnies plan an event for this day? Perhaps you could do a sponsored challenge, using our [fundraising pack!](#)

September 21- International Day of Peace

'Peace Day' provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace. What ideas could your Mini Vinnies come up with to acknowledge 'Peace Day'? Could they write a prayer for peace and make prayer cards to distribute around school and in the parish?



September 21-27- Recycle Week

This week challenge your Mini Vinnies to come up with ideas to improve recycling in your school, parish or town. Perhaps they can lead an awareness assembly using our Mini Vinnies [resource](#)?

September 26- European Day of Languages

[European Day of Languages](#) is a fun day to celebrate the range and diversity of languages spoken throughout Europe. Could your Mini Vinnies plan something to bring all the languages spoken at school together? Could they focus on how to support those who have English as a second language?



September 26- National Teaching Assistants' Day

Schools across the UK celebrate their own TAs and nominate their favourites for the Teaching Assistant of the Year award. Previously, one of our Mini Vinnie groups created certificates and cards for all the TAs in school and presented them in assembly. What other ideas could your Mini Vinnies come up with to celebrate TAs in your school?



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Ideas and Dates for the Diary - October



October 1- International Day of Older Persons

The International Day of Older Persons is a day created by the United Nations to celebrate older people and their contributions to society. It also raises awareness about the issues they face and supports efforts to improve their lives and increase inclusion. Could your Mini Vinnies make cards for older people to show their appreciation, or make a visit to the local care home?

October 10- World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day is about coming together to talk about mental health and show everyone that mental health matters. What can your Mini Vinnies plan for this day? Perhaps they can create a quiet space for people to relax, or write [cards of kindness](#) for those going through a tough time.



October 17- International Anti-Poverty Day

As the SVP is an anti-poverty organisation, this day is very important. Do you have an SVP Community Support Project (CSP) or local SVP group nearby, which your Mini Vinnies could link up with? Or perhaps your school or parish community can do a collection for the local foodbank.

October 11-17- Prisons Week in England and Wales

This week is dedicated to raising awareness and encouraging prayer for prisoners, their families, victims of crime, and all those who work in and around prisons. Look out for resources on our website to use with your Mini Vinnies for this week.



October 19- World Mission Day

This month we are challenged to be agents of action in our community. What small act of significance could you do to bring hope to the community? Perhaps paint pebbles of hope and place them round your local area.



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