

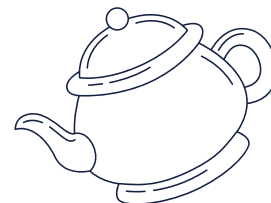


Ideas and Dates for the Diary – September

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.

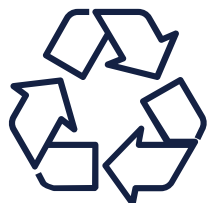


September 16– National Fitness Day

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 14–20 – 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 25 – 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?



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 - 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 18 - 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.



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

November 1st - All Saints' Day

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 16th-20th - 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 20th - World Youth Sunday Livestream for schools

World Youth Sunday (22nd) 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 20th 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 22nd - 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 23rd - 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 29th – 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?



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