

This resource has been produced by the St Vincent de Paul Society. The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is a Catholic international volunteer organisation whose members work with anyone in need in their local community – the homeless, the elderly, prisoners, struggling families, people who are sick and lonely. Young people are an important part of the Vincentian family. We are all called to be like Jesus by helping people, becoming their friend and working with others to make a difference. Find out more and view our school resources by visiting **svp.org.uk/youth-svp**

April: St Faustina, St George & St Catherine of Siena

The One Who Showed Mercy, The One Who Belonged & The One Who Challenged the Pope

4 April (2027) – Divine Mercy Sunday (St Faustina)
23 April — St George
29 April — St Catherine of Siena

Mercy Needs Courage

April. A month of Easter eggs, seasonal changes as spring arrives and the occasional dragon!
This month we meet three very different saints. A Polish nun with a message of mercy, England's patron saint who wasn't actually English, and an Italian woman who wasn't afraid to tell the Pope what she thought. Quite the trio!
But they share something important.
Faith isn't about deciding who's good enough, brave enough or important enough. It's about recognising that everybody matters.
St Faustina was a young Polish nun from a poor farming family. She had little education and wasn't somebody the world would have considered particularly important. But Faustina believed God had given her a message that everybody needed to hear. Nobody is beyond God's mercy. Nobody is too far gone. Nobody is forgotten. Her experiences inspired the Divine Mercy devotion, celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Her message continues to be that mercy isn't just about forgiveness. It's about how we see people, particularly those who've made mistakes or been written off. Nobody should be defined by the worst thing they've ever done.
Then there's St George. England's patron saint. Flags, dragons, knights in shining armour. The lot! Except there's one rather wonderful detail. George wasn't English.
He was a Roman soldier, traditionally believed to have come from the region of modern-day Turkey with connections to Palestine. Yet he has become one of England's most recognisable symbols. There's something lovely about that. Our patron saint reminds us that belonging isn't about where you were born.
Our communities are made up of people with different backgrounds, languages, cultures and stories. Some families have lived here for generations. Others have arrived more recently. All have something to bring. George is remembered for standing firm in his faith, even when it cost him his life. Most of us won't be asked to fight a dragon. Although some days, dealing with people can feel pretty close!
We might not have dragons to fight, but we can stand alongside someone who feels unwelcome, challenge prejudice or make room for somebody who's been left out. Sometimes courage is simply making sure everybody has a place.
Finally, St Catherine of Siena. What a woman! Born in Italy in 1347, Catherine lived at a time when women had very little public influence. Apparently, nobody told Catherine this! She cared for people experiencing poverty and illness, worked for peace and challenged powerful leaders, including the Pope. She loved the Church enough to challenge it when things needed changing.
Centuries later, she became one of the first women declared a Doctor of the Church, recognised for her extraordinary teaching and wisdom. Catherine reminds us that your voice matters, even when you're the person nobody expects to speak up.
Three very different people. Faustina showed mercy. George stood firm. Catherine spoke up.
All three remind us that loving others sometimes takes courage.



This resource has been produced by the St Vincent de Paul Society. The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is a Catholic international volunteer organisation whose members work with anyone in need in their local community – the homeless, the elderly, prisoners, struggling families, people who are sick and lonely.
Young people are an important part of the Vincentian family. We are all called to be like Jesus by helping people, becoming their friend and working with others to make a difference. Find out more and view our school resources by visiting **svp.org.uk/youth-svp**

Reflection Questions

1. Faustina reminds us that nobody is beyond mercy. Why is it sometimes easier to judge someone than understand their story?
2. George wasn't English, yet became England's patron saint. When have you been made to feel like you belong? What do we need to do to help create that feeling?
3. Catherine wasn't afraid to challenge powerful people. What stops us speaking up when something isn't right?

Optional Personal Challenge:

This month, choose one: Make room. Show mercy. Speak up

Include somebody you wouldn't normally spend time with. Give somebody another chance rather than judging them.

Challenge something unfair or stand alongside somebody being excluded. Nothing enormous. No need to slay a dragon before Friday. Just one small act that reminds somebody they matter and they belong.