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 Livesteam 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.

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 - Advent Wreath Project
During Advent, Mini Vinnies can complete the "Advent Wreath Project" on our **Many Stories, One Light** page. They will create a paper Advent wreath that grows each week as they prepare for the birth of Jesus. They will add candles, reflect on Scripture, make kindness pledges, and record daily acts of kindness on leaves to show how they are sharing God's love with others. A beautiful resource to display at school, in your parish or at home.

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?



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.





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.

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.



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 18th -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?

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.

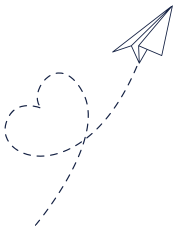




February 11th - Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day for the sick
On Feb. 11, the Catholic Church celebrates the liturgical memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, recalling a series of 18 appearances that the Blessed Virgin Mary made to a 14-year-old French peasant girl, Saint Bernadette Soubirous. Explore 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 10th – March 25th - SVP Lent Campaign
The SVP is inviting all schools and parishes to take part in our SVP Lent Campaign. Keep an eye out for our 2027 resources.

Ideas and Dates for the Diary- February/March

February 9th- 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 10th- 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 Lent resources, with weekly activities to get involved with!

March 4th - 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 7th- 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?





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"!**