

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**

Leaders Guide

Morning Prayer of the Church

God did not create one kind of person, one type of work, or one way of being. He created a human family where each of us is called to reflect His love and become a light for others.
Many Stories, One Light celebrates the diversity of people, experiences, gifts, and vocations that make up our communities, united by a shared commitment to putting faith into action.Through four themes - Belong, Grow, Serve, and Shine - the SVP invites people of all ages to journey together. We are called to belong to communities rooted in friendship and faith, grow in compassion and confidence, serve with purpose through acts of love and justice, and shine as signs of hope in the world around us.These resources support young people to explore the Vincentian mission and discover how their unique story can help bring Christ's light into the world. Together, though our stories may be different, we share one light.

You will need:

• Morning Prayer of the Church slides, relevant for the day and week. Click here for the Universalis calendar, and check the Psalm week for which week you need.

Morning Prayer of the Church (sometimes called Lauds) is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, the daily prayer of the Catholic Church. Across the world, Catholics gather each day to pray using Scripture, Psalms, readings and intercessions that unite us in prayer with the wider Church. As we say Morning Prayer, someone across the world will be saying Evening Prayer, and someone else will be saying Night Prayer.

When we pray Morning Prayer, we are joining a prayer that is being offered by priests, religious and lay people around the world. It helps us begin the day by placing ourselves in God's presence, listening to his Word and asking for the grace to live as disciples of Christ. For the Society of St Vincent de Paul, Morning Prayer offers a special opportunity to reflect on how God is calling us to serve others. Through the theme Many Stories, One Light, we remember that every person we encounter has a unique story, and that Christ's light shines through our acts of compassion, friendship and service.

How to Lead Morning Prayer

You do not need any special training to lead Morning Prayer. Simply follow the order provided in this resource.

Getting Started

Before you begin, split the room into two halves and label them 1 and 2.

Morning Prayer begins with the words:

Leader: O God, come to our aid.
All: O Lord, make haste to help us.
Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit
All: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

As these words are said, everyone makes the Sign of the Cross together.

Throughout the prayer:
The Leader reads the parts shown in blue.
Everyone joins in with the parts shown in pink
Side 1 say the slides labelled 1, and Side 2 say the slides labelled 2

Praying the Psalms and Canticles

Before every psalm and canticle, there is antiphon that everyone says together.
The Psalms and Canticles are then prayed together by splitting the room into two groups.
One half of the room reads the verses marked 1.
The other half of the room reads the verses marked 2.
The groups read their verses alternately, creating a rhythm of prayer that has been used by Christians for centuries.
Before and after each Psalm or Canticle, everyone says the Antiphon together. The Antiphon helps focus our prayer and highlights a key theme from the Psalm or Canticle.

Introduction
Read the short introduction provided for the day. This helps connect the prayer to the theme of Many Stories, One Light and invites us to reflect on how God is present in our daily lives.

Hymn (optional)
At this point, a hymn may be sung. Choose a hymn appropriate to the liturgical season, feast day or theme of the celebration. If no hymn is sung, continue directly to the first Psalm.

Psalm and Canticles
Lead the Psalms and Canticles by saying the antiphon together and then inviting the two sides of the room to read their sections in turn. The Psalms are the prayers of God's people and form the heart of Morning Prayer. They express joy, hope, trust, gratitude and sometimes struggle, reminding us that we can bring every part of our lives to God.

Scripture Reading
Read the Scripture passage provided.
You may wish to invite a volunteer to proclaim the reading.
Allow a brief moment of silence afterwards so that everyone has an opportunity to reflect on what God might be saying through his Word.

Vincentian Reflection
Read the short reflection.
You may wish to invite a volunteer to read the reflection.
This connects the Scripture to everyday life and the Vincentian call to see Christ in others, especially those who may be experiencing poverty, loneliness or exclusion.

Intercessions
Read the prayers of intercession.
You may wish to invite a volunteer to lead the intercessions.
These prayers allow us to bring before God the needs of our school, community and wider world. You may also invite additional intentions if appropriate.

The Lord's Prayer
Invite everyone to pray together:
Our Father...

Closing Prayer and Blessing
Read the concluding prayer.
You may end with the Sign of the Cross.

Vincentian Challenge
Finish with the daily Vincentian Challenge.
This is a simple invitation to put faith into action during the day through kindness, service, listening or friendship.