

FAMILY PRAYER

At Home

All Saints
Catholic Academy Trust

Thursday 28th September 2023

The Feast of St Vincent de Paul

This week we remember the life and work of St Vincent de Paul whose feast day is the 27th September.



Can you imagine being captured by pirates, and then taken into slavery?

That's just what happened to St. Vincent de Paul.

St. Vincent was born in France, the son of a farmer. He was able to study and became a priest in 1600.

He was traveling by sea when pirates captured him; he survived two years as a slave, but escaped to Rome and later, Paris. It was there that Vincent chose to devote his life to charitable works.

Mini Vinnies follow in the footsteps of Christ and St Vincent de Paul.

The Mini Vinnies are the youngest members of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), an international Christian voluntary organisation dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms by providing practical assistance to people in need.



The Mini Vinnies get together in primary schools and parishes across England and Wales to live out their mission of 'see, think, do' supporting their school community and beyond.

Mini Vinnies turn concern into action by:

- Praying for those in need
- Making cards for those who may be sick, isolated, lonely or in prison
- Visiting local care homes to sing and share stories with residents
- Taking part in arts and crafts to share with others
- Running food collections for a local food bank
- Supporting other children in their school or parish

gather Together



Gather together in a quiet space within your home.

Begin by making the sign of the cross together.

Opening Prayer

Open my eyes that I may see the needs of others.
Move my hands that they may feed the hungry.
Touch my heart that it may bring warmth to those in despair.
Teach me the generosity that welcomes strangers.
Let me share my possessions with people in need. Amen.

Scripture

Matthew 9:35-38

Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom, and curing every disease and illness.

At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the labourers are few so ask the master of the harvest to send out labourers for his harvest."

Reflect

When St Vincent de Paul heard or read this gospel reading perhaps he heard God's call to help 'the troubled and abandoned,' those in need.

How will each one of us answer God's call to help those in need?

Let us think about the words of St Vincent de Paul:

"We should assist the poor in every way and do it both by ourselves and by enlisting the help of others...To do this is to preach the gospel by words and by work."



Closing Prayer

Jesus, servant of the poor, may we carry your good news to the poor.

Jesus, servant of the poor, help us to serve those in need.

Jesus, servant of the poor, may we help the poor by acts of compassion and give them hope.

Jesus, servant of the poor, grant that we may bring the goodness of God to the poor, through our actions and our words.

Amen

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