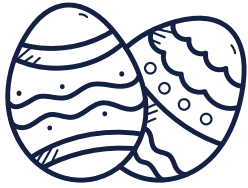




Ideas and Dates for the Diary-April

13th April - Palm Sunday

It's the start of Holy Week, and on Palm Sunday we hear the Gospel story of Jesus being welcomed into Jerusalem. To mark the occasion, your Mini Vinnies could cut out paper templates of a palm leaf, decorate them and write a prayer of thanksgiving.



April 20th - Easter Sunday

This Easter let's celebrate by bringing gifts of joy to others! Perhaps you could do a collection of chocolate Easter eggs to give to those in need in your local community. Why not create a display board at school with posters to celebrate the Resurrection? What message of Hope could your Mini Vinnies come up with write and share with others?

21st April 2024- National Tea Day

It's time to celebrate our longstanding relationship with tea and spread some kindness too! Share with the Mini Vinnies that Britain consumes more than 60 billion cups a year! What better way to celebrate than to organise an afternoon tea event for parishioners or volunteers in school. Our [Gather the Family](#) resources are a great go-to for events like this. You might even like to combine this with your celebrations for the birthdays of our patron and founder, St Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam.



April 22nd - Earth Day

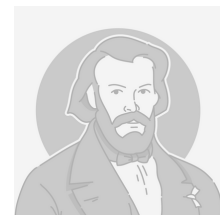
Each year on April 22, more than a billion people celebrate Earth Day. Part of the Mini Vinnies' mission is to care for our world. Challenge your Mini Vinnies to mark the occasion by doing something to help the environment. This can be writing to your MP, litter picking, planting new plants at school and much more!

Happy Birthday Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and St Vincent de Paul

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam (23rd April 1813)

St Vincent de Paul (24th April 1541)

Invite your Mini Vinnies to think about how they could celebrate our patron's and founder's birthdays. It's a time to celebrate their legacy and look to the future with hope.



April 29th - International Dance Day

Can your Mini Vinnies get creative and use dance to lift spirits? How about a sponsored dance? Or leading a wake up and shake up for the school?

April 30th - Stop Food Waste Day

It's estimated that 32% of all food purchased per year in the UK is not eaten. This has a big impact on people and the environment. Can your Mini Vinnies think of ways to reduce food waste at school or at home? How can you spread awareness in your community? Why not use our ["How to give a talk to school or parish"](#) to help plan an assembly on the topic?



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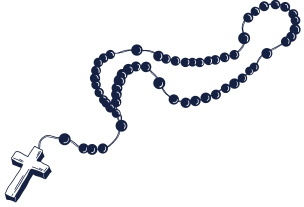
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Ideas and Dates for the Diary-May



Pray the Rosary with the SVP

Our beautiful Rosary resource, adapted from the Mini Vinnies' prayer book, will be a wonderful way to celebrate the month of Mary and pray for the SVP.

May 1st- Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

St. Joseph the Worker is celebrated on May 1, as a way to honour St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus and the patron saint of workers. Perhaps you could celebrate the people who have looked after you through their work, especially those who go unnoticed.

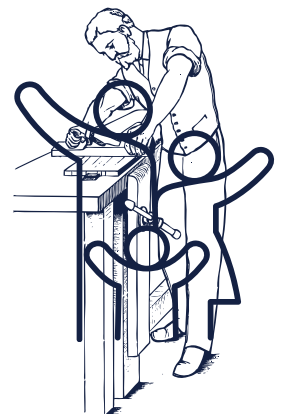


May 12th - May 18- Mental Health Awareness Week

How could your Mini Vinnies support children in school with their mental health? Could they create some calming boxes for others to use at playtime, or lead on an assembly to raise awareness during this week?

May 15th- International Day of Families

This day was set up by the United Nations to recognise the importance of family in communities across the world. The International Day of Families also recognises that the role of the family constantly changes and celebrates all types of families. Why not focus on the Vincentian family on this date? The Mini Vinnies could use our **'Gather the family' resources** to plan an event to bring together other members of the SVP.



May 21 -World Day for Cultural Diversity

This day is held every year on 21 May to celebrate not only the richness of the world's cultures, but also the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development. Could the Mini Vinnies plan an event at school to celebrate the diverse cultures there are in our schools?



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Ideas and Dates for the Diary-June

June 1-2- **The Big Lunch**

The Big Lunch happens every year in the UK to bring people together, encouraging friendlier, safer communities. It's a great time for people to share ideas, skills, resources and friendship. Could your Mini Vinnies plan a big lunch in school to bring children together? Or how about an event that the local adult SVP group could be invited to? What other ideas could the children come up with to bring people together in this way that would work for your setting?



June 2-8 - **Volunteers' Week**

Volunteers' Week is a chance to recognise, celebrate and thank the UK's incredible volunteers for all they contribute to local communities, the voluntary sector, and society as a whole. Could your Mini Vinnies share with the school about their volunteering experience, or why not organise an event or make cards of thanks for those who volunteer at school or in the parish?



June 5- **World Environment Day**

People from all over the world can do something positive to help our planet. What ideas could your Mini Vinnies come up with to live out their promise of caring for God's creation? How about litter-picking in the playground that day? Why not get the Mini Vinnies to plan an awareness raising assembly about recycling?



June 5- **Thank you Day**

This day first came about in 2021 to appreciate the unsung heroes in local communities who contributed their time and resources to making life better for people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Every year it now gives people a chance to thank those unsung heroes in their communities that make a big difference. Why not get the Mini Vinnies to think of ideas for thanking those in their communities?



June 16-22 - **Refugee Week**

The theme for Refugee Week 2025 is "Community as a Super Power". A chance to focus on our collective power to shape hopeful futures. The **SVP Forget-me-not campaign** encourages our Young Vincentians to reflect and learn about the experiences of people seeking sanctuary in our country. Why not explore these resources, which can easily be adapted for this week?



June 21- **World Music Day**

Do your Mini Vinnies play a musical instrument? Could they brighten up the day by planning a mini concert? Why not see if your local care home would like a visit to celebrate this day?

Perhaps they can do a rendition of the **Mini Vinnies' Song!**



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Ideas and Dates for the Diary-July

Plastic Free July

A global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Another great way for the Mini Vinnies to live out their promise of taking care of God's creation. What ideas can they come up with to raise awareness of this topic and make a difference at home, school or in the parish?

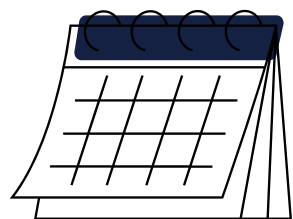


Good Care Month

This entire month is dedicated to honouring those who dedicate their lives to caring for others, especially our social care heroes! There are so many simple acts of kindness that the Mini Vinnies could do to recognise the care given by these unsung heroes – thank you cards or care packages to social care workers. What other personalized gestures of gratitude can the Mini Vinnies come up with to show these workers that their efforts are seen and appreciated?

School Leavers' Activity

Our School Leavers' activity gives children an opportunity to reflect on their time at primary school and think about their hopes and dreams for the future. If you have Mini Vinnies in Year 6, why not get them to consider how they can apply their Vincentian values in their next school?



Kindness Calendar

Print off a copy of our August Kindness Calendar for your Mini Vinnies to continue their acts of kindness during the summer holidays.

July 30- International day of friendship

The International Day of Friendship was introduced by the UN to promote friendship between countries, cultures and people. It emphasises young people's roles as future leaders in community activities focused on respect for diversity. Perhaps you can get your Mini Vinnies to plan something for this day before the end of term, like an event, or even just a promise to talk to someone new that day. Then they can write what they've done on their kindness calendar and share it at the next meeting! For those who love crafts, how about making **Vincentian bracelets** that you could gift others?



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