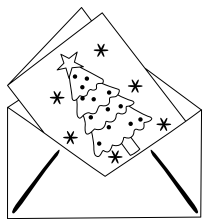




## Ideas and Dates for the Diary-January

### Open the door of Communication

It's the **Year of Jubilee**, and as "Pilgrim's of Hope" we want all our Mini Vinnies to know that every door they encounter can be a Holy door, a chance to encounter Christ and share His love with others. Why not use our prayer and action resource each month this year, focussing on the particular group of people that the Pope is inviting to Rome and asking us to pray for? We are opening the door of communication this month, so click here to use these slides and call to action.



### 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.

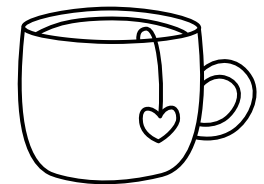
### New Year's resolutions

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?

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### January 20th - 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 Family'** resources to help plan an event.?



### January 24th - International Day of Education

UNESCO is dedicating this year's awareness day to 'the crucial role education and teachers play in countering hate speech' (UNESCO). Our Mini Vinnies could play a big part in expressing to others, whether in a class speech, assembly or another event, the importance of kindness. Why not use this time to get the Mini Vinnies to **teach other children about a particular topic** that is close to their hearts, to ensure others have a better understanding of it? It could be on homelessness or bullying, to name but a few. It's these little seeds that are planted at an early age that will change the way our society thinks, acts and behaves towards others in the future.



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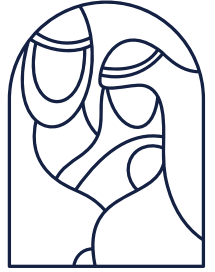
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## Ideas and Dates for the Diary-February

### 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?

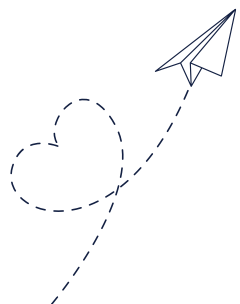
### February 14th - Valentine's Day

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 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!



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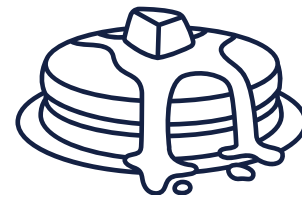
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## Ideas and Dates for the Diary- March

### March 4th - Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday, also called Pancake Day, is the feast 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?



### 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 [Jubilee Lent Resources](#), including a Reconciliation service, our Lenten Campaign and much more, on our website. In addition to our Jubilee Lent resources, why not explore our [Lent calendar](#)?



### 6th March - 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.



### 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"!](#)**



### March 30th - 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?



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## 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 21st - 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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