

This Advent Liturgy 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

Advent End of Term Liturgy

Every 25 years, the Church celebrates a Jubilee Year. This is a moment of significance in the Church when we refocus and open ourselves to special graces. This Jubilee Year is entitled ‘Pilgrims of Hope’ and starts on Christmas Eve 2024, going through to Epiphany 2026. A symbol of a Jubilee Year is often a Holy Door. These doors are entrances into sacred spaces, and in this upcoming Jubilee Year when our focus will be hope, the Holy Door of St Peter’s Basilica in Rome will be opened and people will be invited to make the pilgrimage and journey through it. A pilgrimage is a journey where there is an expectation of meeting God. This year, behind every door we open, we should expect to encounter God. That is the message we would like to share with our young people.



Before you begin: Create a reverent, quiet and comfortable space for the group gathered.

Ensure that all relevant materials are printed and readily available for the group and that the sacred space is set up with a focal point. The focal point could include some of the cut out leaves or even a door.

For this session you will need:

- Presentation slides (Use **Video PPT** for an integrated video version of the spoken word or **Spoken PPT** if you have readers)
- Appendix 1: ‘Doors of Hope’ spoken word, printed for those who are reading.
- Appendix 2: How to build your wreath
- Appendix 3: Print on red paper and cut out to add to your finished wreath
- Appendix 4: Leaves for your door wreath printed on different shades of green paper (You will need enough leaves for each participant SVP group or Faith in Action/Justice and Peace group could help to prepare these)



GATHER

- **Slide 2– Slide 15:** The reflection begins with a short interactive game around famous doors.
 - This can be played in teams in a classroom or individually in a larger assembly setting. (If played in an assembly you might take 2 volunteers from each side of the room to represent their team).
 - Have a look through and decide how best to play it in your setting.
 - The final door is the Holy Door.
- **Slide 16:** It can be found in Rome and is the northern most entrance to St Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican.
- **Slide 17:** This door is only opened every 25 years and in between that, it is cemented up from the inside so no one can use it.
- **Slide 18:** The Holy Door is opened to mark an extraordinary Year of Jubilee.
- **Slide 19:** Each Jubilee Year has a theme and this year the theme is “Pilgrims of Hope”.
- **Slide 20 :** Every door we open is Holy.

LISTEN

- **Slide 21:** We make the sign of the cross together and look for a moment at that image of Mary and Joseph. On a pilgrimage, what did they hope for?

If using the video presentation

- **Slide 22:** Click play (with sound on)

If reading the spoken work presentation

- **Slides 22–31:** Ask readers to read Appendix A
- **Next Slide (23 or 32):** You could ask a participant to read the scripture for you

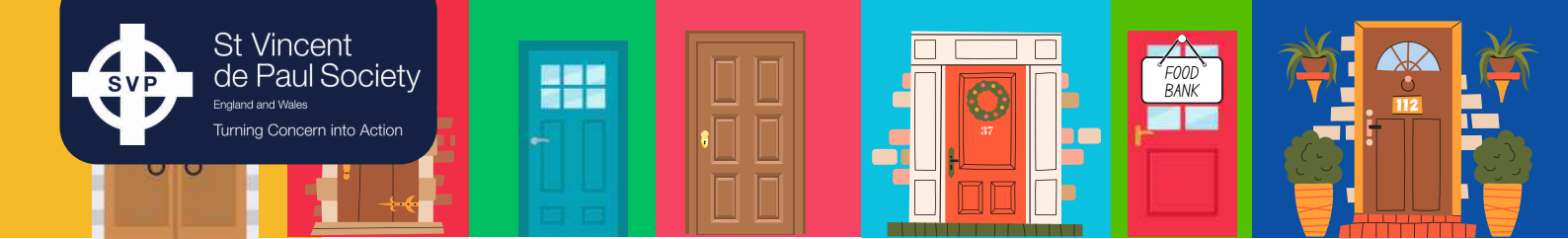
Scripture: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1

In Pauls letter to the Hebrews he is reminding them and us that God ‘creates’ so much out of things we cannot see. Just because we don’t understand how God will act does not mean He cannot, or will not act.





St Vincent
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Turning Concern into Action



RESPOND

So as we prepare to start this Year of Jubilee let's think about the things that we hope for.

- **Slide 33/24:** For ourselves, our communities, our world or our loved ones? Take a moment to think about the hope that has come to mind.
 - It might be to do with our world and what we see on the news.
 - Our hope could be something we want to see change in our local community.
 - Your hope equally could be for something personal for yourself or a loved one.

*At this point you can choose to end with the short prayer below or if you have the time, use the leaves and resources in **Appendix 2, 3 & 4**. These leaves could be collected by the Youth SVP in school, the chaplaincy team or equivalent to be turned into a wreath that can hang in the main entrance.*

Closing Prayer

Loving God,

As Mary and Joseph journeyed, seeking refuge and a welcoming heart,
we ask for the grace to open our doors to others in need.

May we have their spirit of humility and trust, welcoming each person as a gift.

Help us to recognise Your presence in every encounter and to be instruments of Your love. Amen.

Close with the Sign of the Cross.



Doors of Hope (Spoken Word):

A journey of hope, shadows stretch long;
Two tired travellers, their worries so strong.
Mary and Joseph, just looking for a place,
A simple spot, where they might feel God's grace.

No fancy entrances, no golden gates,
Just a simple inn door, would be where their future waits.
Desperate to rest, they knock for some shelter,
Could what lies beyond this door bring them a helper?

This door a sturdy barrier, yet hope overflows inside,
Behind it there is safety, away from dark skies.
Each knock becomes an echo, a quiet prayer in the night,
Calling out for a place to rest, for a guiding light.

A heavy wooden door, creaking on its hinge,
Solid and sturdy, protecting all within.
A glass door so clear, revealing the view,
Of life passing by, everchanging and new.

A tuneful doorbell, ringing with cheer,
Heralds the arrival of friends and loved ones dear.
Old shabby doors, worn by the years,
They echo the laughter, and remember the tears.

Each scratch and dent, is a mark of the past.
Through every doorway, the memories they last.
In a Jubilee year, holy doors are always expected.
Flung wide open, pilgrims flock, because here no one is rejected.

Across the world, there are so many doors all around,
Each one can be holy, a place where God can be found.
For it's not the beauty, the size, or the glow,
But the path the door opens, where we all can go.

It's for us to decide, it's our chance to learn,
How the door we might open could ease a concern.
Not always big, it doesn't have to be grand,
Small acts of kindness, a reach for God's hand.

Each door to safety, each door to peace,
Brings us closer to God, where worries might cease.
As we gather together, let's reflect and pray,
On the holy doors, we meet on our way.

May our hearts be open, our spirits on fire,
knowing that God's love will never tire.
A pilgrimage of hope, we're journeying on,
spreading God's love, wherever we're from.



Wreath Making:



Once all of the paper leaves are cut, begin glueing the leaves to the cardboard ring. I used only a small amount of glue at the base of the leaf so I could maintain a 3D effect and layer the leaves. I actually fluffed the leaves a little so they did not appear so flat.



Continue sticking the leaves all the way around the ring until the cardboard is covered. Use the red decorations to make it look like a Christmas Wreath. Hang the wreath, using string or hessian in the main entrance of the school as a reminder.

