



Mini Vinnies Commissioning Ceremony Toolkit

Leader's guide

Things you'll need:

- Mini Vinnies' Commissioning Ceremony Presentation
- The Parable of the Good Samaritan
- Mini Vinnies' Song Lyrics and video (practise beforehand)
- Items for your prayer table/ focal point
 - Bible
 - Candle
 - Cross
 - Picture or statue of St Vincent de Paul
- Cut-out handprints (1 per child being commissioned)
 - The children can write on here one or more things they intend to do as a Mini Vinnie. These can then be brought up and placed on your prayer table.
- Guests (parents/carers/ parishioners/ SVP members/ Parish Priest etc)

Gather

Set up your sacred space and ensure that your new Mini Vinnies have their handprints to display at the front for all to see. Have some gentle background music on to start, and display **Slide 1** on your screen.

Slide 2: Leader welcomes those in attendance and outlines the reason why we're here today. *We have come here today to commission these children as Mini Vinnies in our school/ parish and welcome them into the Vincentian family.*

You might like to explain the significance of the three objects on your prayer table.

Bible: *We display this as we listen to the Word of God and follow Jesus' example.*

Candle: *This represents Jesus as the Light of the World. We all carry this light in us to share with others.*

Cross: *Jesus died for each and every one of us so that our sins may be forgiven, and that we may have the gift of eternal life.*

Slide 3: Begin with the Opening Prayer



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Slide 4: You will see the SVP in lots of different places, so the children are joining a large family of Vincentians.

- Mini Vinnies (primary-aged children)
- Youth SVP (secondary- aged children)
- SVP1883 (Young adults)
- SVP adult groups, known as Conferences
- Vinnie Camps
- SVP Community shops
- Community Support Projects
- Helping to change laws
- Vinnie Van

Listen

Slide 5: The Mini Vinnies are being called to Kindness. They'll follow in the footsteps of the SVP Patron, St Vincent de Paul, the Founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and great women of the SVP, St Louise de Marillac, and Blessed Rosalie Rendu.

Read the scripture on the slide.

All those who are part of the SVP see Christ in others and aim to treat them as they would like to be treated. By showing kindness they are reflecting Christ.

Slide 6: Invite the Mini Vinnies to come up and share the story of the Good Samaritan. Reflect on Jesus' message at the end. We are all called to see who needs our help, think about how we can help, and do something to show our kindness.

Respond

Slide 7: Invite all of the Mini Vinnies to now make their pledge in front of those in attendance. Present their badges and certificates if you have them. If there's time, invite a few of them to read what they wrote on their handprints.

Slide 8: Now invite the Mini Vinnies to say their prayer together.

Go forth

Slide 9: Bring the ceremony to an end with the Closing Prayer.

Slide 10: The Mini Vinnies can lead the whole school/ parish in singing the Mini Vinnies' song, or you might like to just have this playing as they leave.



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