



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

LENT 2024





Introduction to the campaign



Make Poverty a Priority

A Young Vincentians Lenten Campaign 2024

2024 is set to be a big year. A year of prayer and encounter as we prepare for a jubilee year, a UK general election and 180 years of the SVP in England and Wales.

For 180 years the SVP in England and Wales has supported people in need and now is no different. Our Vincentian values insist that we must seek and find those in need and help them in a spirit of dignity and humility, as well as speak out against injustice where we can. All around the country our support centres and Conferences (young and old) have collectively seen a spike in the number of people turning to our services in order to make ends meet, with the number of people requesting support doubling in comparison to last year. Additionally, the number of people accessing the SVP's other services, such as food banks, kindness kitchens and debt advice, has seen a marked rise. Indeed, the increase in the price of food, fuel and transport will continue to squeeze household budgets further still. With an election on the horizon this year we have partnered with CAFOD to create a resource to help your young people and staff be empowered to reach out to local candidates. [Click here.](#)

This year the Young Vincentian team are inviting you to join us as we journey the stations of the cross through Lent. Through the stations of the cross we don't enter a history lesson. Instead we are signposted by them to reflect on what is happening now. Through them we are reminded that the mystery of the cross is that we experience how suffering can be transformed through love. This Lent we invite everyone using the 12 stations of the cross to be challenged to see, think and do so that this Lent poverty might be made a priority.

The resources

- **Printable copies of the stations of the cross and script**
 - These can be put up and used in your school or parish.
 - Can be used in whatever way suits your individual situation.
- **4 short videos reflections**
 - Knowing that time is short we have designed four short videos which could be used in a form time or during a short reflection point in a parish session.
- **1 extended video reflection**
- **Campaign visuals**
 - It would be wonderful to get images of your students and young people holding
- **Weekly Leaders Guide**
 - Notes to accompany the videos for staff and leaders to help unpack the questions in a brief discussion
- **Extended (30min - 60min) Session on signs and symbols**
 - Suitable for a lesson or a Youth SVP group/Faith in Action/Confirmation session.

Using the resources:

The resources have been designed to imitate the Priority signs that you often see in public spaces and on transport and have been created with flexibility in mind. There are 4 short videos. Each exploring 3 stations of the cross that could be used over the 4 Fridays (that schools are open) in Lent. They are designed with a 10 minute form time or registration in mind. Alternatively the stations of the cross could be led using the visual printable stations and the script by a group of students or staff in an assembly setting.

There are also discussion questions and a call to action to accompany each set of stations.

By the end of Lent we hope your classes or student leadership group will have the highlighted somebody in the local community who they think could help them to support poverty in the local area.

We'd love to hear about how you explore the campaign and use the resources at youngvincentians@svp.org.uk. For any further questions or support please contact Juliaf@svp.org.uk