

The Life of St Vincent de Paul

"Let us live together
in great charity and
friendliness."

— St Vincent de
Paul



1581



St Vincent de Paul was born on 24th April 1581 in France in a place called Pouy. Vincent's family wasn't very rich and they made their living by farming.

1600



Initially Vincent wanted to be rich and powerful. He wanted to help his family by sending money back home. He decided to become a priest and was ordained when he was just 19 years old.

1605-1608



Soon after his ordination he was allegedly captured by pirates and sold into slavery. He eventually managed to get free and, after a period in Rome, found himself in Paris. These next years are where Vincent starts to feel a deep conversion to service and love.

1633



He eventually found himself with a rich family called the de Gondis. It is here where he hears a dying man's confession. The dying man tells Vincent everything, things he had not told another soul, things he is ashamed of. Afterwards the man feels so relieved to have been forgiven that he gathers his family around him and makes his sins known to them as well.

25 January



Vincent is deeply affected by this; he realises the need for confession and gives a series of sermons around the area guiding people towards the sacrament. It was during this time that Vincent founded the order of priests, known as the Congregation of the Mission or the Vincentian Fathers.

1617 onwards



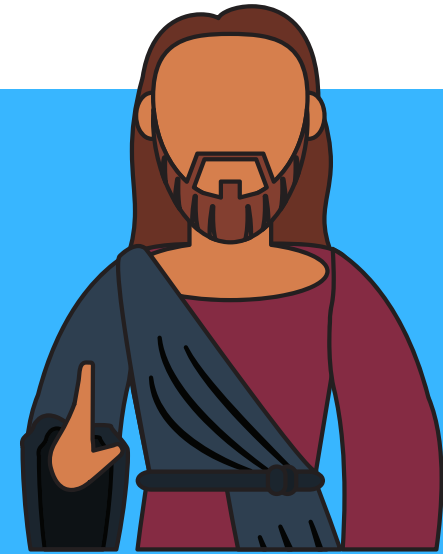
Vincent and his followers went on to minister to the poor, supporting them spiritually and then also with food, clothes and medicine.

1617



Later on, Vincent, with St Louise de Marillac, helps start an order of religious women called the Daughters of Charity. His mission also reaches other countries such as Poland and Algeria.

1660



Eventually after many years of love and service, he utters the name of Jesus and passes away on 27th September 1660. We celebrate his feast day on 27th September too.



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales

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