



# ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

## METROPOLITAN SCHOOLS & YOUTH NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first Metropolitan Schools and Youth Newsletter for 2021. With a new year, we are blessed with fresh starts and fresh opportunities. Let us embrace this new beginning as we close the chapter on the turbulent year that was. Despite the challenges that 2020 presented, staff and Members of the St Vincent de Paul Society were overwhelmed with joy at the generosity of our school and youth communities.

We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support and thoroughly look forward to working with you again in, what we hope is, a much better year filled with happiness, laughter, and good health for all.

As we entered 2021, we also had some staffing changes to the Metropolitan Schools and Youth team. It is with sadness that we bid farewell to Chantelle Smit (Previous Broken Bay and North Sydney Schools Engagement Officer) and would like to wish her the very best with her future endeavors. On the other hand, we are delighted to welcome Fiona Pelosi to the role and look forward to the many different skills and ideas that she will bring to the team.

### Vinnies 2020 Christmas Appeal



Once again, we received an overwhelming response to our Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Despite the tough year that was in 2020, schools in the Metropolitan region demonstrated their selflessness and generosity by helping individuals and families experiencing hardship, experience a better Christmas than they otherwise would have had. Thank you very much to all our incredible school and youth communities! Watch the [Christmas Appeal Thank You video from some of our Conference presidents](#).

### Mini Vinnies Formation Program: 2021 Edition



Following such a successful Pilot launch of the [Mini Vinnies Formation Program](#) in 2020, the Metro Schools Engagement Team is delighted to launch the 2021 Edition of the Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP).

Parents/guardians of students can register their child for the MVFP at <https://bit.ly/MVFPregistration>

Congratulations Elizabeth Nwosu (Year 6, 2020) from St Patrick's Primary School, Blacktown for being the first student to complete the MVFP in just 2 terms.

## Term 1, 2021

We love to hear from you!

Metropolitan Schools & Youth  
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**Formation Program**

<https://bit.ly/VinniesMVFPformationprogram@vinnies.org.au>

## Starting Up a Mini Vinnies or Teen Vinnies Group in 2021



There are thousands of dedicated Mini Vinnies and Teen Vinnies members across the Metropolitan region. If you would like to introduce this social justice program to your school or if you would like more information, please contact your Vinnies Schools Engagement Officer.

## Metro Vinnies Vans Services

Metropolitan Vinnies Vans Services has revised operations due to COVID. Now we have daytime distribution sites across Sydney providing around 2,500 snack packs per week, sandwiches, and blankets/sleeping bags on request. If you are looking for volunteer opportunities to achieve your service hours for school and outside organisation programs, please consider the following:

- Preparation of snack packs and toiletry packs for clients of Vinnies Vans Services
- Macramé bag making for clients of Vinnies Vans Services



The Behind the Scenes and Sandwich Making rosters are still on hold until further notice. In the interim, Metro Vinnies Vans Services are accepting donations of bulk snacks and snack packs to our Lewisham, Liverpool or Parramatta kitchens.

To book a drop off or pick up, please contact Josie Charbel (Vinnies Vans Services Coordinator) on [josie.charbel@vinnies.org.au](mailto:josie.charbel@vinnies.org.au) or 0490 282 121.

## Supporting Vinnies Refuges

If you would like to donate to our Vinnies refuge, please note that the following items are currently required: single and king single bed sheet sets, single and king single duvets, pillows, and mattress protectors in single and king single.

## Build Homes, Build Hope



The Vinnies NSW 'Build Homes, Build Hope' Petition for social housing was successful in gaining 11,733 signatures. In October 2020, Jack de Groot (Vinnies NSW CEO) and Brooke Simmons (Vinnies Vice President Social Justice), delivered the petition to Alex Greenwich MP who committed to table it in Parliament.

In November, NSW Government announced 1,280 additional social housing homes in NSW. While any new social housing is welcome, there is still a long way to go. Thank you very much for your assistance with this campaign. Read more at: <https://record.vinnies.org.au/spring-2020/build-homes-build-hope-petition-achieves-10000-signatures>

## Prayer of Peace

Dear God,

Please help us to make peace in the world. Give us strength to teach others how to be an image of your son's work. Give everybody in the world wisdom to stop all the wars and create peace.

Thank you for helping our relatives defend and bring peace to our world. Help me not to see people as different races, as red or yellow, black, or white.

Instead, let me see them as persons who feel, who laugh, who cry, who are hurt or hate or even love just as I do. "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1)

- By St. Gerard's Primary School, Carlingford

## Vinnies Spirituality Guide: Year B

Do you ever get stuck coming up with new religious activities for your classroom, Mini Vinnies or Teen Vinnies group?

The Vinnies Spirituality Guide: Year B is a fantastic resource filled with readings, prayers, and activities for each week of the Church year!



Download our Spirituality Guide for Free from our Website

[https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Mini\\_Vinnies\\_Spirituality\\_Guide\\_Year\\_B-1.pdf](https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Mini_Vinnies_Spirituality_Guide_Year_B-1.pdf)

# Vinnies Metro Youth

## Chatswood Young Adult Conference

2020 ended on an exciting high note for Vinnies Youth, with the opening of a new Vinnies Young Adult Conference in the Chatswood Region. The excited and bright group of young people is currently made up of recent school leavers, who are keen to continue their support and involvement with Vinnies. They have hit the ground running by participating in Chatswood Region Christmas Appeal fundraisers. They have been inspired to give back to their community following in the footsteps of so many strong Catholic ambassadors such as Mary MacKillop who said, “never see a need without doing something about it”.



### KEEN TO HELP OUT AT A UNI ORIENTATION?

If you are keen to help at any of the uni orientation events listed in the article, please get in touch with your Youth Conference President or Kate Conroy, Vinnies Metro Youth Engagement Officer. Places are limited due to COVID restrictions.

## University Orientation Weeks

During February & March Vinnies Youth will be busy attending all the university orientation events across the greater Sydney area. If you are a new university student in 2021 or a returning student, we would love you to support our Vinnies Youth stalls and information sessions at all the different universities.

We will have a stall on campus at UNSW O-Week and USYD Welcome Week, we will be hosting an online live zoom session at the UND Orientation Week, and we will have resources available at the Chaplaincy & Catholic Society stalls at UTS & Macquarie Uni. If you're an ACU student come and find us at any of the three campuses on your Market Day! And if you're studying at Campion College this year, you won't want to miss the information session we will be running during your first week. Refer to your university's orientation guides for dates and locations, then come and find us, and most importantly bring a friend along too!

## Vinnies Youth Programs Update

Our regular Vinnies youth programs; Buddies Days, Homework Help & Green Team, as well as the Vinnies Van Service programs; Brekky Van & Night Patrol are still on hold. We were underway with restarting in January 2021 however plans changed when the recent COVID restrictions came back in place. We are still working on adjusting our programs, so we can relaunch in a safe, beneficial, and fun way for all involved. If you have been a volunteer on any of the youth programs in the past, you will be receiving an email soon about your current volunteer status. Please take the time to respond to us, as this will help us to restart the programs as smoothly as possible. Vinnies requires all volunteers & members to keep their Code of Conduct & Child Safe Familiarisation Training up to date. The email you will be receiving will provide more details and if you have any questions don't hesitate to get in touch with Kate Conroy, Vinnies Metro Youth Engagement Officer.



## Metro Youth virtual Christmas Gathering

Vinnies Metro Youth held their annual Christmas Gathering despite the challenges faced for meeting in large groups. Youth Representatives worked with staff to organize and host an online gathering. It was an opportunity for Vinnies Youth Members & volunteers to connect with one another across the Metro Region, to thank them and acknowledge all the work and time they put into serving Vinnies in 2020 and to have a fun end to what was for many a challenging year.

