



St Vincent de Paul Society (NSW)

Metropolitan Schools Newsletter: Term 4, 2024

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

Christmas Appeal 2024: The Cost of Living



During what should be a time of joy and celebration, Vinnies is expecting an increase in the number of people turning to the Society for support.

We invite your school to support our 2024 Vinnies Christmas Appeal. This year, we are focusing on the devastating and unrelenting impacts of cost of living and the immediate, practical and emotional support the St Vincent de Paul Society can provide to help people get back on their feet.

To find out how your community can best support the Appeal, please refer to the 2024 Christmas Appeal launch email recently sent to your school. You can also contact your Schools Engagement Officer for more information or to book a presentation on the Appeal and the Cost of Living.

Christmas Appeal resources and activities are available at <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/christmasappeal/>

Vinnies High School Zoom Gathering – November 27, 3:30-4:30pm

Secondary schools are invited to attend our Vinnies Metro High School Gathering, which will be held via Zoom. Bring along students from Years 7-11 to connect with other schools from across the Sydney region, participate in activities and celebrate their support for Vinnies throughout 2024.

Teachers are asked to register via Zoom to receive the meeting link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZEtduyhrjstGNCxGQHC0Ly0xGR9K2F3UAIQ#/registration>

Blessed Frederic Ozanam Award (Year 6, 2024)

This award aims to recognise Year 6 students who have demonstrated a significant contribution and commitment to social justice and community service throughout their primary school years. Recipients of the award will receive a certificate in recognition of their efforts.

Each primary/K-12 school is invited to nominate up to three Year 6 students to receive the Award. Please complete [the nomination form](#) at least ten working days before your presentation event so the completed certificates can be emailed to you.

Vinnies Metropolitan Schools Team

Chris Nolan: Sydney Archdiocese (except regions listed below)

✉ chris.nolan@vinnies.org.au ☎ 0408 622 294

Roydon Ng: Parramatta Diocese (& Sydney Archdiocese: Liberty Plains/Auburn, Kingsgrove-Bankstown)

✉ roydon.ng@vinnies.org.au ☎ 0487 001 186

Ketaki (Ket) Wasnikar: Broken Bay Diocese (& Sydney Archdiocese: Western Suburbs)

✉ ketaki.wasnikar@vinnies.org.au ☎ 0477 440 5677

Christmas Card Competition

We are looking for five beautiful designs to use as the official Vinnies NSW Member Christmas Cards for 2025!

The designs for these cards are used by Vinnies NSW Members to gift to one another at Christmas time, and in some cases, to on-sell as a fundraiser for their good works.

For more information, including submission requirements, visit <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/christmascardcompetition/>



Mini Vinnies Gathering 2024

On 24 July, we had 25 schools from across the Sydney metro region attend the annual Mini Vinnies Gathering at ACU Strathfield. It was wonderful to see so many students participate this year and to witness the enthusiasm they have in being the hands and feet of Christ. Watch our [recap video of the event on YouTube](#).



Start a Mini Vinnies group in 2025

Vinnies School Conferences are a great way to get young people thinking and talking about their spirituality and to connect their faith with issues affecting your community through volunteering, advocacy, and fundraising.

Contact your Vinnies Schools Engagement Officer today for more information about starting a [Mini Vinnies group](#).

Vinnies Service Medallion for high school students

The Vinnies Service Medallion (VSM) aims to enhance students' knowledge of key social justice issues and provides a platform for students to demonstrate their strengths beyond the classroom, increasing employment and university admission prospects.

Learn more at www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/get-involved/vinnies-service-medallion



Vinnies School Social Justice Workshops

Our workshops are designed to facilitate meaningful engagement in social justice issues and provide opportunities for participants to put their faith into action. School Social Justice Workshop topics include: Housing and Homelessness, Poverty and Cost of Living, Human Dignity and Catholic Social Teaching (CST), Migrants and Refugees, Environmental Stewardship.



All school Social Justice Workshops are \$200 and should be made at least 4 weeks in advance. More information regarding Vinnies Schools Social Justice Workshops is available through the [Vinnies Schools Social Justice Workshop flyer](#) (and [booking form](#)) or by contacting your Vinnies School Engagement Officer.

Resources for School Communities

Spirituality Guides for Liturgical Year (B)

<https://bit.ly/MiniVinniesSpiritualityGuideB>

Mini Vinnies Starter Kit

<https://bit.ly/MiniVinniesStarterKit23>

Vinnies High School Conference Starter Kit

<https://bit.ly/VinniesHighSchoolConferenceStarterKit23>

Social Justice Factsheets

<https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources/>

Key Dates for 2025

- Sr Rosalie Rendu Feast Day (7 February)
- World Day of Social Justice (20 February)
- Harmony Week (18-24 March)
- Youth Week (9-17 April)
- Youth Homelessness Matters Day (16 April)
- Winter Appeal (May-September)
- Laudato Si' Week (May)
- St Louise de Marillac Feast Day (9 May)
- National Volunteer Week (19-25 May)
- National Sorry Day (26 May)
- National Reconciliation Week (27 May-3 June)
- World Environment Day (5 June)
- Refugee Week (15-21 June)
- World Refugee Day (20 June)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday (6 July)
- NAIDOC Week (6-13 July)
- Mini Vinnies Gathering (July)
- Homelessness Week (August)
- Busking for Vinnies (August)
- Social Justice Sunday (31 August)
- Season of Creation (September)
- Frederic Ozanam Feast Day (9 September)
- RU OK? Day (11 September)
- St Vincent de Paul Feast Day (27 September)
- Anti-Poverty Week (October)
- International Day for Eradication of Poverty (17 October)
- World Day of the Poor (November)
- National Recycling Week (November)
- Christmas Appeal (October-December)

Merchandise Orders can be placed for:

- Vinnies (Logo) Lapel Badges
- Vinnies (Conference Role) Lapel Badges
- Vinnies Prayer Cards and Bookmarks

Please email your completed **ORDER FORM** to supplycentre@vinnies.org.au

Metropolitan Vinnies Van Services – Opportunities for School Communities

Van Services Roster (ages 16+)

Sydney: Sydney, Bayside, Liverpool, Ryde, Cumberland, Brekky Van

Parramatta: Greater Western Sydney

Broken Bay: Woy Woy

Behind the Scenes (ages 16+)

Volunteer as a kitchen hand at Lewisham for the Sydney Vinnies Van Services during school hours (especially for parents and teachers).

Sandwich Making Roster

[Sydney](#) | [Bayside](#) | [Liverpool](#) (Mt Pritchard) | [Ryde](#)

[Greater Western Sydney](#) | [Woy Woy](#)

For more information, please email:

sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au

Donations for Vinnies Van Services can be dropped off by appointment to the Lewisham, Greystanes, Mt Pritchard, Ryde, or Woy Woy base. Please email: sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au

More information about Vinnies Vans is at: www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-vans

Vinnies is Here to Help!

If anyone in your school community requires support including food, energy, and utility bills, rent and housing assistance; please contact our **Vinnies Support Hotline** on **13 18 12** or find your local Vinnies Support Centre at www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-support-centres

Woy Woy Van & Cumberland Van

Volunteers are needed to assist with the Woy Woy & Cumberland Vans Service on a night roster and sandwich roster.

If your school would like to join, please email Viniana Tamanitoakula (Vinnies Van Services Assistant): sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au

Snack Pack/Toiletry Pack Making

School communities can donate items for snack packs and toiletry packs or completed packs to Vinnies Vans.

