



*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 2025: The Cost-of-Living Crisis



This Christmas, as even more families experience hardship and face the risk of homelessness, we are finding more people reaching out to the Society for assistance than ever before.

We invite your school to support our 2025 Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Your community can help make a real difference to others this Christmas. The funds raised and donations collected through the Christmas Appeal allow the Society to respond to the growing demand for support and to ensure that the assistance reaches those who need it most.

To find out how your community can best support the Appeal, please refer to the 2025 Christmas Appeal launch email sent to your school at the end of Term 3. You can also contact your Schools Engagement Officer for more information or to book a presentation on the Appeal.

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

## Canonisation of Pier Giorgio Frassati

On 7 September, Pier Giorgio Frassati was canonised in Rome, along with Carlo Acutis.

Pier Giorgio joined the St Vincent de Paul Society at 17 years of age and saw service as the highest expression of faith. His deep involvement drove him to become a mining engineer and actively promote Catholic Social Teaching. Known for his courage, charisma, and athletic pursuits, Pier Giorgio embodied Christian joy and selflessness.

Pier Giorgio was only 24 when he died. His devotion to the poor shone through simple acts of kindness and today he is recognised as the Patron of Vincentian Youth.



To find out more: [www.ssvpglobal.org/blessed-pier-giorgio-frassati/](http://www.ssvpglobal.org/blessed-pier-giorgio-frassati/)

## Vinnies Metropolitan Schools Team

**Chris Nolan:** Sydney Archdiocese  
(except regions listed below)

✉ [chris.nolan@vinnies.org.au](mailto:chris.nolan@vinnies.org.au) ☎ 0408 622 294

**Roydon Ng:** Parramatta Diocese  
(& Sydney: Liberty Plains/Auburn)

✉ [roydon.ng@vinnies.org.au](mailto:roydon.ng@vinnies.org.au) ☎ 0487 001 186

**Ketaki (Ket) Wasnikar:** Broken Bay Diocese  
(& Sydney: Western Suburbs; Kingsgrove-Bankstown)

✉ [ketaki.wasnikar@vinnies.org.au](mailto:ketaki.wasnikar@vinnies.org.au) ☎ 0477 440 567

## Term 4 Social Justice Days



- National Recycling Week (10-16 November)
- World Day of the Poor (16 November)
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November)
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December)
- Human Rights Day (10 December)

## 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](http://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-support-centres)



## Blessed Frederic Ozanam Award (Year 6 2025)

This Award recognises Year 6 students who have demonstrated a significant contribution and commitment to social justice and community service throughout their primary school years.

**Please note there are new nomination procedures for 2025.**

Each primary/K-12 school is invited to nominate up to four students for consideration with two students receiving the Award as determined by the Vinnies Schools Engagement team. A maximum of two certificates will be awarded to each school.

To find out more or to nominate students for the Award, please complete [this nomination form](#) by Friday, 28 November.

## Christmas Card Competition

We are looking for five beautiful designs to use as the official Vinnies NSW Member Christmas Cards for 2026!

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/>



## Vinnies Merchandise Orders for 2026

Term 4 is the ideal time to order Vinnies merchandise for your school for 2026. Orders can be placed for Vinnies lapel badges (for Mini Vinnies students), prayer cards, tote bags and Vinnies branded clothing.

To ensure you receive your order in time for Term 1 2026, please email your completed [ORDER FORM](#) to [supplycentre@vinnies.org.au](mailto:supplycentre@vinnies.org.au) by the start of December.

## New Mini Vinnies Song Launched!

The new Australian version of the Mini Vinnies song was launched at the Mini Vinnies Gathering in Term 3. The song was written and produced by the Forbes St Band, an initiative of the Ozanam Learning Centre (OLC).

The Forbes St Band creates opportunities for the OLC music program participants to write, record and perform original works of music. It is a diverse group of Sydney-based artists who have found belonging and healing through their shared passion for music. The Band developed the new song especially for Mini Vinnies students and collaborated with students from St Anthony of Padua Catholic College Austral to record the final track.



We invite all schools to learn and use the new song in your community. [Click here for the song and video.](#)

## Start a Mini Vinnies Group

Mini Vinnies is 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) is a state-wide initiative by the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW that recognises and celebrates the contributions of secondary students to community service, leadership, advocacy and fundraising. The VSM provides a clear and flexible framework for students to engage in social justice while acknowledging their impact through a formal award.



Students can register via <https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/vinnies-service-medallion/>

If your school would like to learn more about the VSM, please contact your Schools Engagement Officer to organise a Zoom meeting to discuss the program.

## Resources for School Communities

**Spirituality Guide for the Liturgical Year (Year C):**  
<https://bit.ly/MiniVinniesSpiritualityGuideYearC>

**Mini Vinnies Starter Kit:**  
<https://bit.ly/MiniVinniesStarterKit23>

**Social Justice Factsheets:**  
<https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources/>

**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](mailto:supplycentre@vinnies.org.au).

## Metropolitan Vinnies Van Services – Opportunities for Schools

### Van Services Roster (ages 16+)

Sydney: Sydney, Bayside, Liverpool, Ryde, Cumberland, Brekky Van  
Parramatta: Greater Western Sydney  
Broken Bay: Woy Woy

### Sandwich Making Roster

[Sydney](#) | [Bayside](#) | [Liverpool](#) | [Ryde](#)  
[Greater Western Sydney](#) | Woy Woy

### Woy Woy Van & Cumberland Van

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

### Snack Pack/Toiletry Pack Making

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

**Donations for Vinnies Van Services can be dropped off by appointment to the Lewisham, Greystanes, Mount Pritchard, West Ryde or Woy Woy bases.**

To drop off donations or to join a roster, please email Viniana Tamanitoakula (Vinnies Van Services Assistant): [sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au](mailto:sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au). More information about Vinnies Vans is at: [www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-vans](http://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-vans)



## Cumberland Vinnies Van – Volunteers Needed

**Looking for a way to engage parents and support people who need 'a hand up'?**

Vinnies Vans is seeking volunteers to join a team of enthusiastic people who look forward to chatting and sharing with people in the Cumberland Area through the Merrylands CBD service.

Both Van drivers and assistants are needed for this daytime service operating every Thursday. To find out more, email Viniana via [cumberlandvv@vinnies.org.au](mailto:cumberlandvv@vinnies.org.au).



# SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKSHOPS

## for students, teachers and parents

Our workshops are designed to facilitate meaningful engagement in social justice issues and provide opportunities for participants to put their faith into action.

Workshops are in-person and are designed for all members of the school community — primary or secondary school students, teachers, staff, and parents.

Workshops begin with an introduction to the St Vincent de Paul Society and can include hands-on activities (with donated materials from your school) to support Vinnies good works.

### BOOKING A WORKSHOP

All workshops are a minimum of 1 hour in length and require 4 weeks' notice.

Workshops incur a booking fee of \$200 (GST exempt) which will be invoiced to the school.

### MINI VINNIES & VSM

Why not start a primary school Mini Vinnies group or join the secondary school Vinnies Service Medallion (VSM)?

These programs empower students to become leaders and advocates within their school and local community by putting their values into action.

Contact the Schools Engagement team to find out more.

Scan to book



St Vincent de Paul Society  
NSW  
*good works*

### WORKSHOP TOPICS



#### Housing and Homelessness

How Vinnies provides support to people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.



#### Poverty and the Cost of Living

How Vinnies responds to the challenges of poverty and cost of living that people experience.



#### Human Dignity and Catholic Social Teaching

How the good works of Vinnies are expressions of Catholic principles and teachings.



#### Environmental Stewardship

How supporting Vinnies demonstrates cares for creation and the natural world.



#### Migrants and Refugees

How Vinnies advocates for and support new arrivals to Australia.

### QUESTIONS?

Contact your local Schools Engagement Officer or email [metroschools@vinnies.org.au](mailto:metroschools@vinnies.org.au). Vinnies school resources are available at [youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources](http://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources)

Visit [bit.ly/metroschoolsbookings2025](https://bit.ly/metroschoolsbookings2025) to book