

VINNIES METRO SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



St Vincent de Paul Society
NSW
good works

TERM 4 2026

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.

We thank you for your ongoing support of the Society and look forward to working with your community this term.



Information and resources:

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

Christmas Appeal 2026

We invite your school to support the Vinnies Christmas Appeal, which focuses on the cost of living crisis. A growing number of families, even those with two incomes, are experiencing food insecurity, rising housing costs and mounting bills. For many people, it will be the first time they cannot put food on the table, keep up with the rent, pay the bills and the first time they find themselves reaching out for assistance.

The support provided by the Society at Christmas plays a critical role in assisting those in need in our communities with hope and dignity. Your school's support will allow our services, members and volunteers to assist people doing it tough by providing food relief, clothing, bills or rental assistance, crisis accommodation and emotional support.

Thank You for Supporting the 2026 Winter Appeal

As we conclude the Winter Appeal, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all school communities who put their faith into action and worked to assist people experiencing hardship. Vinnies has been deeply heartened at the generosity shown by supporters across the Greater Sydney region.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam Award (Year 6 2026)

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.

Each primary/K-12 school is invited to nominate **up to three students** to receive the Award in 2026.

If you would like to nominate students for the Award, please complete [this nomination form](#) by Friday, 27 November so that certificates can be emailed to you. Please note that the Award is non-competitive and that each student who receives a nomination will receive the Award.

Metro Schools Engagement Team

Chris Nolan: Sydney Archdiocese

(except regions listed below)

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

Roydon Ng: Parramatta Diocese

(& Sydney: Liberty Plains/Auburn)

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

Ketaki (Ket) Wasnikar: Broken Bay Diocese

(& Sydney: Macquarie; Northern Suburbs; Western Suburbs)

✉ ketaki.wasnikar@vinnies.org.au ☎ 0477 440 567

Term 4 Social Justice Calendar



- Anti-Poverty Week (11-17 October)
- National Recycling Week (9-15 November)
- World Day of the Poor (15 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

Call 13 18 12



“ If you have nothing to give,
give yourself. ”

Sr Rosalie Rendu



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Christmas Card Competition

We are looking for five beautiful designs to use as the official Vinnies NSW Member Christmas Cards for 2027. 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 Schools Social Justice Workshops – Bookings are Open for 2027

Our workshops are designed to facilitate meaningful engagement in social justice issues and provide opportunities for participants to put their faith into action. Our topics are: Homelessness and Cost of Living; Human Dignity and Catholic Social Teaching; Environmental Stewardship; Migrants and Refugees.

A booking fee applies to the above (\$200 GST exempt; minimum 1 hour duration) with whole day staff/teacher bookings being \$500. Winter/Christmas Appeal and Mini Vinnies introductory presentations in Term 1 are free of charge.

Book a Workshop

<https://bit.ly/vinnieschoolworkshops>



Vinnies Merchandise Orders for 2027

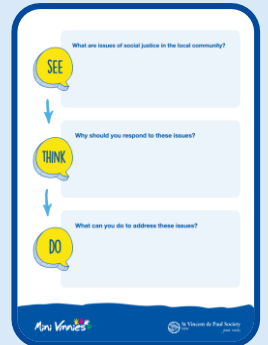
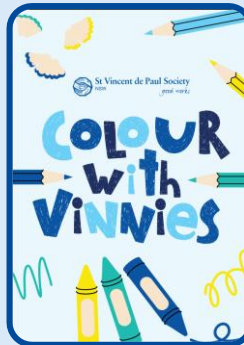
Term 4 is the ideal time to order Vinnies merchandise for your school for 2027. Orders can be placed for Vinnies lapel badges (for Mini Vinnies students), prayer cards, tote bags and Vinnies branded clothing. To ensure you receive your order in time for Term 1 2027, please email your completed [ORDER FORM](#) to supplycentre@vinnies.org.au by the start of December.

NEW Mini Vinnies Resources available now!

Visit our Youth NSW website to view our new resources for Mini Vinnies students!

New materials include colouring pages, Catholic Social Teaching and See, Think, Do reflections and a student action planner.

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



Does your primary school have a Mini Vinnies group?

Contact your Schools Engagement Officer for more information or view our **UPDATED** [Mini Vinnies Starter Kit](#).

Vinnies Service Medallion for High School Students (VSM)

The VSM is a state-wide initiative that recognises and celebrates the contributions of secondary students to community service, leadership, advocacy and fundraising. The VSM provides a flexible framework for students to engage in social justice while acknowledging their impact. Schools can register via
<https://youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/vinnies-service-medallion>

If your school is already registered, a reminder to complete your 2027 registration and renewal form.

To book in a time to learn more about the VSM, please contact your Schools Engagement Officer.



“Yours must be a work of love,
of kindness, you must give your
time, your talents, yourselves.”

Blessed Frederic Ozanam



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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

HELP NEEDED! Van Day Services

Small groups of two or three teachers and/or
parents are needed to join the roster for the
[Vans Day Services](#) at Haymarket (Mondays),
Maroubra (Thursdays) and Merrylands (Thursdays).



Sandwich Making Rosters

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

Woy Woy Van & Cumberland (Merrylands) Van

Volunteers are needed to assist with the Woy Woy & Cumberland
Vans Service (day, night and sandwiches).

Snack Pack/Toiletry Pack Donations

Our Vans services are always in need of items for snack packs and toiletry packs or completed packs. Donations
can be dropped off by appointment to the Lewisham, Greystanes, Mount Pritchard, West Ryde or Woy Woy
bases. To drop off donations/join a roster, please email sydneyvv@vinnies.org.au.

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

Vinnies Youth Week 2027 Reference Group

The NSW Office of Youth has announced the 2027 Youth Week to take place from 7-17 April with the theme of
“Next Up”. Next Up recognises the important role young people play in shaping their communities, driving change
and creating the future they want to see. The theme celebrates the energy, ideas and leadership of young people
across NSW and encourages young people to step forward, have their voices heard and shape what's next.

The Metropolitan Vinnies Schools & Youth Team is seeking to consult with high school students in Term 4, 2026
and Term 1, 2027 to seek input for the co-design of Vinnies Youth Week activation in various local council areas.

We are inviting 6-10 high school students with a teacher to
meet with the Vinnies Schools & Youth Team online as part of our
co-design process and youth consultations for Youth Week 2027.

The overall commitment for each group is a 45min Zoom meeting
in Term 4, a 45min Zoom meeting in Term 1, and in-school based
student-led consultation of peers of Youth Week.

Vinnies would like to hear from high school students about what activations would be best received, what
information about support services and volunteering opportunities would be most sought after. If your school
would like to join or have more questions about the Vinnies Youth Week 2027 Reference Group (e.g. 6-10
students with 1 supervising teacher), please email Roydon Ng (roydon.ng@vinnies.org.au).



VINNIES IS HERE TO HELP

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“

Go to the poor, you will
find God.

”

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Vinnies Schools Musical Performances 2026

Busking for Vinnies strikes a record-breaking chord

The Vinnies Schools Musical Performances (Busking for Vinnies) program has achieved an outstanding milestone in 2026, delivering its most successful Parramatta season in its 32-year history. Across 10 events held throughout August and September, students raised an impressive \$13,769.98 — 26% more than the total raised in all of 2025. Through music, generosity and community spirit, school bands, choirs and ensembles transformed lunchtime performances into meaningful support for people experiencing hardship.

This remarkable success was made possible by: Delany College (Granville), Oakhill College (Castle Hill), Vinnies Ozanam Learning Centre (Forbes St Band), Catherine McAuley (Westmead), Parramatta Marist High School (Westmead), Gilroy College (Castle Hill), Mount St Benedict College (Pennant Hills), St Edmund's School (Wahroonga), Our Lady of Mercy College (Parramatta); and supported by Conferences of: Winston Hills, Parramatta, Greystanes, Westmead.

Roydon Ng, Schools Engagement Officer for Metropolitan Vinnies and co-coordinator of the events, praised the students for demonstrating the power of faith in action. “These students have shown Parramatta what faith in action looks like,” Mr Ng said. “They gave their talent, their time and their lunch breaks, and in return they opened a door to help for dozens of people who might never have walked into a Vinnies office.” He thanked the participating schools, conference members, volunteers, fellow co-coordinator John Neylan and the City of Parramatta for helping deliver the most successful season yet.

Established in 1994 with five music students from Our Lady of Mercy College in Parramatta, Busking for Vinnies has grown into a powerful community initiative, achieving five consecutive years of growth and raising more than \$72,000 since 2008. Delany College and Oakhill College delivered the season’s strongest events, while the involvement of additional local conferences strengthened the program’s reach. The 2026 results demonstrate how schools and communities can work together to inspire generosity, nurture student confidence and provide practical support to people in need.

The program continues in the Blue Mountains with two final performances, featuring primary school students for the first time: Friday 27 November at Springwood Town Square and Wednesday 9 December at Lawson Village Green, both from 11am to 1pm. Community members are encouraged to attend and support local students as they help people doing it tough this Christmas. For more information or to explore opportunities for local Vinnies conferences to collaborate with schools and young people, contact Roydon Ng, Schools Engagement Officer, Metropolitan Vinnies, at roydon.ng@vinnies.org.au



2026 VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

How to Give

TO GIVE FINANCIALLY

Financial donations give Vinnies the flexibility to provide support where it is needed most. They also allow individuals and families the dignity of choosing the items and services that best suit their needs.

You can choose to direct your donation to your local area or a particular Vinnies service if you wish.

To donate financially, you can either;

1) Create your own personalised online school fundraising page at: <https://fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way>
or

2) Raise funds (offline), and then donate at our website: <https://nsw.vinnies.org.au/christmasappeal>

If you would like your donation to support your local Conference or a specific Service, please include the name of the Conference or Service when making your donation online.

3) Via direct deposit to:

Payee Name: St Vincent de Paul Society NSW

Street Address: 2C West Street, Lewisham

Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank

Branch: Leichhardt NSW

Account Name: SVdP Appeals

BSB: 062 193

Account Number: 1005 7471

Reference: 00-156

*Cheques can be written to "St Vincent de Paul Society NSW" and mailed to: PO Box 5, Petersham, NSW 2049.

Please send a Remittance Advice to remittances@vinnies.org.au and copy your Schools and Youth Engagement Officer

TO GIVE HAMPERS, FOOD, OR GIFTS

Your local Conference Members support people in the community every week and are best placed to understand the needs of the individuals and families they assist.



Many Conferences are grateful to receive hampers, food, and gifts during the Christmas season. In some circumstances, however, financial donations or gift cards may be more suitable. We encourage you to check with your local Conference to find out what is most needed.

Where do the hampers go?

Hampers are distributed to individuals and families in your local community who have reached out to Vinnies for support during the Christmas period.

To help uphold the dignity of those receiving a hamper, please ensure all food items are:

Non-perishable

Unopened and undamaged

At least six months from their expiry date

Where possible, choose packaged food with a Health Star Rating of 3.5 stars or above!

Tip: One way to organise your collection is to allocate a family profile to each classroom or year level. Consider the needs of the family and tailor the hamper accordingly to help make it practical and meaningful.





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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 \$200 booking fee and whole-day staff/teacher bookings are \$500 (GST exempt).

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.

WORKSHOP TOPICS



Homelessness and Cost of Living

How Vinnies provides support to people experiencing homelessness and the rising cost of living.



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.

Scan to book



QUESTIONS?

Contact your local Schools Engagement Officer or email metroschools@vinnies.org.au. Vinnies school resources are available at youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/resources

Visit <https://bit.ly/vinniesschoolworkshops> to book.