

Easter 2023

# Ozanam

## News

# Rejoice!



**Brother Walfrid:  
A Forgotten  
Vincentian?**

**Inspirational  
Youth**

**Circular Letter  
and Farewell**



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Twinning & Projects Officer

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Student Coordinator

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# Contents

Message from National President	3
Around the Conferences	4-7
Brother Walfrid: A Forgotten Vincentian?	8-9
Spirituality	9
Obituaries	9
Twinning	10
Social Justice	10
Youth News	11
International	12

## Next submission deadline is 12th August 2023

To keep up to date with SSVP Scotland news, visit [www.scotland.com](http://www.scotland.com) or connect to social media channels



@SSVPScot



@SocJustSSVPScot

Any News - Any time

Also send your Conference news, together with any photos to [communication@ssvpScotland.com](mailto:communication@ssvpScotland.com) Your news can then be shared.

The Ozanam News relies on your contributions. Send articles and images (JPG or PNG format only, no PDFs) to: [communication@ssvpScotland.com](mailto:communication@ssvpScotland.com).

Please provide full caption details for photos. We are unable to accept paper submissions. Articles should be written by email or attached as a Word Document.

## Publishing Policy

1. The objective is to publish a new Ozanam News, which will be issued three times per year, May, September, and November. To facilitate this, a publications committee has been formed and a member of the National Council has been made responsible for its operation. The publications committee will normally meet two months before going to the printer. As at present, the actual putting together of the magazine will be the responsibility of the National Office staff, who will select the printer and liaise and coordinate with all preproduction functions. 2. In accordance with National Council requirements, the intention will be not to feature 'editorial' pieces. Any material deemed to detract from the Society's broader aims will be approved by the National Council prior to publication. Hopefully these arrangements will help the new Ozanam News develop into a more humorous, educational, and spiritual publication which will concentrate on bringing the Society, its Members and Associates closer together. With this Togetherness in mind, National Council Agenda business could well become a regular feature in the magazine. In the main, letters for publication will normally be from twinning parties- regarded as reports. Other letters will be accepted for publication with an added footnote or returned for discussion by the respective council and/or president if thought to be more appropriate.





# Message from National President Danny Collins

president@ssvpscotland.com



Dear brothers, sisters, friends, and volunteers of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Scotland, Lenten Season provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the Here and Now, both as individuals and members / volunteers of the SSVP and to choose the best way forward through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In November 2022 the National Council held their first hybrid meeting (online and in-person) in the national office, with most of the members being in attendance, face to face for the first time since 2020. I was pleased to welcome the two new Diocesan Presidents from St. Andrews & Edinburgh, Haydn Carr-Pollock (appointed 11/2022) and from Dunkeld, Sid Grant (appointed 02/2022) along with the recently appointed Student Tutor Coordinator, Sean Murphy (appointed 09/2022).



Left to Right: Haydn Carr-Pollock; Sid Grant; Sean Murphy; Danny Collins.

In addition to the many other acts of charity referred to in this Easter edition of the Ozanam News I wish to refer to the launch of the book on Brother Walfrid entitled "A life of Faith, Community, and Football", and to express my gratitude to the author Michael Connolly for writing the article inside this edition which focuses on Brother Wilfrid's Vincentian journey.

I also wish to advise SSVP members throughout Scotland that a National Council Safeguarding / PVG working group has been established to make representation at a national level; several meetings have already been held and most recently a joint information session attended by the Director of Safeguarding (Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency), Compliance and Training Officer (Volunteer Scotland), and members of the SSVP National Council

working group. Further meetings are scheduled to take place and hopefully some of the outstanding matters can be progressed. In the meantime, if Conferences have any queries regarding Safeguarding / Protection Vulnerable Groups (PVGs) then please, in the first instance, contact your Local Parish Safeguarding Coordinator.

This year marks the 175th Anniversary of the first SSVP Conference to be founded in Glasgow, I wish to acknowledge the contribution of those members who have gone before us and the many brothers and sisters still actively serving in hope throughout the Archdiocese of Glasgow.

**Date for your diary:** On Saturday the 26th August 2023 this year at the **National Meeting** will be held again at the Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel; members will be aware that we have been unable to come together since 2019. I would encourage all Conferences to make a special effort this year to bring the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Scotland's members together to celebrate and I am looking forward to seeing many brothers and sisters on that occasion.

Many thanks and Easter Blessings to all. Serving in Hope.

*Danny Collins*  
National President



Left to Right: Pat Snee; Marist Brother Colin Chalmers; Michael Connolly & Danny Collins.

# AROUND THE CONFERENCES

## Aberdeen Diocese

Conferences which have not met since the first lockdown, are now reconnecting. Conferences adapt their service depending on local needs and local resources. Most Conferences working within Parishes are visiting the sick and elderly in their homes, which continues to be a significant need and offers good support. Some Conferences, continue to benefit from produce from CFINE (Community Food Initiatives North East) for the food parcels they hand out. This includes fresh food, tinned food, and food near its best before date. Other Conferences are giving aid to The Apostleship of the Sea mainly in the form of sweets and warm clothing.

An ongoing concern has been the needs and care for Ukrainian Refugees. It was reported that the local agencies; Local Councils, Housing and Social Work, Health Facilities and Education are carrying out their duties so efficiently that there had been limited request for help in the area. This is reassuring that the agencies are meeting the needs of the vulnerable citizens.

## St Andrews & Edinburgh Archdiocese

The last few months have been about working to strengthen our structure within St Andrews & Edinburgh SSVP and understand the issues, challenges our Conferences are facing.

Tom Canning (Fife) Thomas Harkins (West Lothian) and Richard Zak (Stirlingshire) have recently all joined Bobby Murdoch (Edinburgh) as our Group Presidents. A massive welcome to them and a request for your prayers in helping us all to continue help serving the poor in our Archdiocese and beyond.

A particular recent success across the Archdiocese has been the number of Conferences that have set up and supported "warm room" initiatives. The Furniture Project continues to support the Diocesan needs and has reached out to welcome refugee families from Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan, Angola, and a number of other countries.

## Dunkeld Diocese

SSVP is probably one of the best kept secrets and while we do not boast about our work many people have no idea of what we do, so it important that we let them know how we might be able to help. A number of Conferences in the city of Dundee who are working with a number of families from India and Afghanistan. They have helped them with housing, clothing, furniture and even helped them to find work in the city. Throughout the year Conferences across the Diocese of Dunkeld have raised funds for and continue to support refugees from Ukraine. Most Conferences work in conjunction with other help groups and there is always a range of cross referrals, with SSVP referring clients to other specialist groups and SSVP receiving referrals from these groups and often Social Services.

**Energy Support Scheme** - Over the winter months the combined Conferences of St John the Baptist/St Mary Magdalene, Perth have been operating a scheme to help vulnerable families cope with the steep rises in the price of gas/electricity. In collaboration with Perth & Kinross Foodbank, we are issuing vouchers to vulnerable families who use the foodbank services. Each voucher is worth £30 and can be redeemed at a local Co-op store, the cost being met by our Conferences. The scheme will last until the end of April 2023, but can be extended, depending on need.

## Galloway Diocese

"St Margaret's & St Paul's SSVP Conference, Ayr were extremely honoured to be asked to carry the Relic of St Margaret, Queen of Scotland, into the Cathedral on the occasion of the Anniversary Mass to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the founding of St Margaret's Parish".

"Well done St Peter in Chains Conference, Ardrossan in successfully attracting new members following the close down due to the Pandemic".

"Family of Louise Lynch, member of St. Margaret's and St Paul's, combined, Ayr who bravely faced an extremely cold sea on Christmas morning in the aid of Conference funds".



## Motherwell Diocese

### **Sacred Heart, Bellshill & St Gerard's, Bellshill SSVP:**

The Senior Citizens' Christmas Social Evening was a great success with a large number of Parishioners attending. As always everyone enjoyed the night. Sacred Heart were successful in receiving a grant towards the Social Evening. St Gerard's was also successful in receiving a grant of £3,150 from CORRA Foundation, this will go to help those in most need during this difficult period. We continue to work together to assist the Community.

God Bless everyone and all who have supported us throughout the year.

### **MW Furniture Project Update**

The Project has continued to thrive, and the generosity of the public encourages us try and maintain what we do. To date (02/2023) we have delivered to 110 households with a range of furnishings to enable families to provide a better home. We have also carried out 80 Uplifts including complete house clearances. Earlier on this year we were graced with the presence of 3 Students from Valladolid College, the young men were extremely interested in our charitable work, and thoroughly enjoyed the time they had with us.



What we desperately need is additional Volunteers to help in the office with completing request forms for answering telephone enquiries, 4 hrs a week and Volunteers to assist with the delivery and uplift service, additional drivers would be most welcome. If you would like to visit anytime just give us a call or email. Email: [svdpfurniture@outlook.com](mailto:svdpfurniture@outlook.com) or tel: 07483363888/01698 372599.

# Glasgow Archdiocese - 175th Anniversary of the first SSVP Conference to be founded in Glasgow.

**'You cannae fling pieces oot a nineteen storey flat' – but you can provide a free take away food service at its base! Lincoln Community Kitchen.**

For many years the Conference at St Peter's Partick, Glasgow supported a soup kitchen in the city centre. However, as a result of the covid pandemic the need lessened due to many secular groups now providing a similar service.

The soup kitchen's key coordinator was aware of a substantial need for many people living in the high-rise flats in Lincoln Ave, Knightswood, Glasgow. The Lincoln flats complex comprises four tower blocks, nineteen stories high with six apartments on each floor. Some live in what is termed a temporary flat i.e. they could be moved on at short notice. Others have a permanent lease. In total approximately 1500 people live in this complex. Residents include families, many of whom are asylum seekers and refugees, as well as individuals blighted with drug or alcohol issues. Poor mental health is all too common.

This knowledge, along with a reduction in calls for assistance at parish houses gave St. Peter's SSVP and the other Conferences in the Glasgow North Group (Glasgow NG) the impetus to go where the need is, rather than wait for people to come to us. This desire to help people within their own community led to the concept of a community kitchen rather than simply a soup kitchen being developed. This led to establishing the "Lincoln Community Kitchen".

The groundwork to getting started involved meetings with the various interested parties to achieve consensus and to reach the necessary agreements. Once all parties were satisfied, permission was given for the Lincoln Community Kitchen to operate from a customised sea freight container at the base of the flats, provided free by LINKES.

Thus, on a freezing Wednesday evening on 13 December 2022, with a temperature of around minus 7°, our service began and runs weekly from 5pm – 8pm. We offer a free 'take away' food service of homemade soup, cheese / tuna sandwiches, a hot dish e.g., vegetable pasta or curry and fresh fruit.

Currently we are serving around 15 families and 20 individuals (approximately 60 – 80 people) but believe that as word of mouth spreads and the lighter nights and better weather comes, the numbers will increase. To reduce waste and to keep costs down, we encourage people to bring their own bags and containers. This is only partially successful, but we hope in time that this will improve.

The project has a team of 38 committed volunteers, all of whom required to complete a Food Hygiene Course which they funded themselves. Many but not all are Vincentians. Those that are also take on a befriending role. As trust has developed this has helped to identify further need and led to other assistance and support being offered.

Without a doubt the greatest strength of this project is its support from the volunteers and all the Conferences in the Glasgow NG. Those Conferences whose members cannot be there physically are providing other very valuable support e.g., financially and/or spiritually. And it is the latter which reminds us that'.... our work does not spring from ourselves alone.' Please remember our and all Vincentian projects in your prayers.



LCK Light in the darkness

## Important Dates

**24 April 2023** - Mass for Canonisation of Frederic Ozanam - St Mungo's Townhead, Glasgow 7.30pm

**22 August 2023** - 175th anniversary for Glasgow Archdiocese - St Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow 7.30pm

**23 September 2023** - Vincentian Family Mass Carfin - Rosary 1pm followed by Mass 2pm

**November 2023** - Annual Requiem Mass for deceased members – to be confirmed.

**December 2023** - Festival Service in honour of Our Lady – to be confirmed.

## Paisley Diocese



Group including Fr Ryan and our young altar server Ayomide.

The Ozanam Club, Paisley was delighted to be able to come together to celebrate our 20th Anniversary in September 2022. We had a lovely Mass thanks to Fr Ryan (Black) our Curate at St Mirin's, Paisley. Attended by Club members, their families and support staff, our volunteer team and the wider Paisley Diocesan SSVP. We were especially pleased to welcome Bernie Parsons, one of our founding members, together with National President Danny Collins, Diocesan President Joe Hendry and friends from our (big) sister club (the Ozanam Club in Uddingston).

Not resting on our laurels we've been busy since then with a Halloween Party, a St Andrew's Ceilidh and a Christmas Party interspersed amongst regular club nights. We have big plans for 2023 too, which started with a Burns Supper on 27th January. Of course, none of this would be possible without the financial support of the Paisley Diocesan SSVP Conferences for which we are eternally grateful.

Here's to the next 20 years!



Group of the Red Shirts with the celebration cakes

**Our Lady of the Wayside, Paisley** continues their tremendous Vincentian work which includes operating a Soup Kitchen on a Friday evening, collecting & distributing basic food and toiletry provisions for parish clients within the Paisley Diocese as well as a new Lunch Club.

The 'Soup Kitchen' is held in the halls of Holy Trinity & Saint Barnabas (Episcopal) Church and is open to all adults regardless of denomination or faith. They operate an Open-Door policy, on a Friday evening 1845-1945, where clients can enjoy a hot three course meal in a safe, warm, and congenial atmosphere.

The 'Lunch Club' within the St Mirin's Cathedral halls, Incle St, Paisley, runs every second and fourth Monday of each calendar month 1330-1600. It has an Open-Door policy aimed at those who are sixty years or above though some younger people attend. Patrons enjoy Tea/Coffee/non-alcoholic beverages, wholesome hot soup and sandwiches as well as a quiz, bingo and other light entertainment. The 'Lunch Club' is a new venture and on a three-month pilot programme but is already proving very successful.



1 of the 4 kitchen teams at OLW, Paisley

# Brother Walfrid: A Forgotten Vincentian?



To those familiar with the name 'Brother Walfrid', most would likely associate the man with the foundation of Celtic Football Club in Glasgow in the late nineteenth century. Some might even point out that he was born in Ireland, his original name was Andrew Kerins or indeed that he was a Marist Brother. Very few, however, would be able to tell you that Walfrid also served as a member of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) until his dying day. It is an aspect of the spiritual journey of the life of one of the most influential and significant figures for the religious, social, and cultural life of modern Scotland that has – for too long – been overlooked. What better time to remember, reconsider and recognise Brother Walfrid as a Vincentian, than in the year of the 175th anniversary of the first SSVP conference being held in Glasgow?

Professor John S. Phillimore, 'the first Catholic professor in the University of Glasgow since the Reformation, stressed the strength of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SSVP) in sustaining the Catholic community'. Local parish branches began springing up in Glasgow from 1848 onwards, just prior to Walfrid's arrival in the city as a fifteen-year-old in 1855. The SSVP, 'a powerful organ of Catholic Action', was of course founded by Blessed Frederic Ozanam. Ozanam was born in Milan in 1813 but interestingly raised, like his contemporary Saint

Marcellin Champagnat who founded the Marist Brothers, in Lyon, France. The origins of two of the most important forums for Brother Walfrid's spiritual life – the SSVP and the Marist Brothers – can thus both be traced to Lyon in the south-east of France. Along with fellow Catholic students of history and philosophy at the Sorbonne, Paris, Blessed Ozanam held the first conference of the SSVP in May 1833. Two years later a Governing Council of the original collection of Brothers was created and 'the Rule' constituted. It read: 'The Rule defines the character of the Society – an association of piety and charity, having as object the visitation of the poor and being ready to adapt itself as far as possible to any further work, if of a truly charitable character'.

Just thirteen years after its foundation, the Society had spread from mainland Europe to Scotland when the "Francophile" Bishop Gillis of Edinburgh furnished the first Society with offices in 1846. James B. Bryson, a Glasgow solicitor, had joined Bishop Gillis' first Edinburgh branch of the SSVP during a two-year stay in Edinburgh. Upon his return to his native city in 1848, Bryson established the first Glasgow conference, St Andrew's, which was attached to the Cathedral parish by the river Clyde. Bryson had previously organised the foundation of the Scottish Catholic Temperance Association in 1839 and corresponded with the General Council in Paris to place the new Glasgow Conference on a sound footing. Between 1848 and 1858 – when the arrival of Irish people dispossessed by the Great Hunger, including a young Andrew Kerins, was peaking in Glasgow – the Society grew as a result to comprise 131 Brothers working in fourteen different community parishes. By 1898 – the fiftieth anniversary of the SSVP in Glasgow – the Society boasted 'forty-one conferences and 569 members. The Marist Brothers' spirit of Christian charity chimed with such endeavors. Sharing similar charisma as well as distinctly French origins, the Marist teaching order and lay charitable organisation would foster close links in Glasgow, particularly.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has of course been solemnly consecrated

to the Sacred Heart of Jesus from the 5th of February 1872. Just two years later, Brother Walfrid was entrusted, as headmaster, to open the new Sacred Heart school in Glasgow in 1874. By the 1880s, Walfrid had been promoted to Brother Superior of the Marist headquarters close to Glasgow Green. His influential position enabled him to initiate the 'Poor Children's Dinner Tables' charity in 1884 by enlisting the support of the local parish branches of the SSVP and fellow Marist Brother, Dorotheus. By providing basic meals in the Catholic schools of the area Brother Walfrid held the belief that he could ameliorate the impoverished situation of local children by encouraging engagement in education. Local collections were arranged by utilising the network of Vincentian branches to support the school feeding programme. Such examples of voluntary Catholic charity can be viewed as part of a distinct network of similar organised initiatives including children's refuge homes and industrial schools which also sprang up in Victorian Glasgow. In this sense, the vocation of the Brothers of Saint Vincent de Paul can be considered part of a wider progressive movement in British cities which allowed Catholics to take 'pride in the achievements of the group'.

The foundation of Celtic FC represented an extension of this 'community-building': Brother Walfrid utilized football as a means of providing through the conferences of the SSVP for disadvantaged children attending local Catholic parish schools – most notably Sacred Heart of Bridgeton, Saint Mary's in the Calton and St Michael's of Parkhead. Walfrid's concern for the spiritual and physical welfare of 'the poor children' followed him to England post-Celtic when his works were required elsewhere by his religious superiors. In Spitalfields, in the impoverished east end of London, Brother Walfrid became influential in the weekly meetings of the Vincentian Brothers where he aimed to replicate and continue his charitable efforts alongside his duties as headmaster of the parish school. Particularly in the harsh winter months, fundraising efforts to provide free breakfasts – a scheme well ahead of its

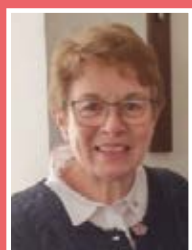
time - became vital to the young pupils under Walfrid's care. Over 80% were found to be relying on sustenance at St Anne's school at this time, with over 400 children receiving breakfast at school because of the funds raised by Brother Walfrid and his SSVP confreres. Feeding the poor children was indeed an issue close to his heart and can be traced back to Walfrid's formative years in famished Ireland. Charity and outreach, however, was not confined only to Catholics or indeed those from the surrounding urban area. In 1897, again perhaps moved by his own experience of the Great Hunger in Ireland, monies were collected and donated by Brother Walfrid's own SSVP

conference towards the 'Indian Famine Fund'. This reflected an international and universal dimension to the charitable conscience not only of Walfrid but of the Society to which he belonged.

Dr Michael Connolly completed his PhD at the University of Stirling in spring 2022, producing the first academic historical biography of Brother Walfrid, a Marist Brother and survivor of the Great Hunger in Ireland, who worked with impoverished communities in Glasgow and London in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Walfrid most famously utilised sport to synthesise education, charity, and community, in

the form of Celtic Football Club in 1887.

A book based on this research was released by Argyll Publishing in early November 2022. "Walfrid: A Life of Faith, Community and Football" is available directly from the publisher online at [www.thirstybooks.com](http://www.thirstybooks.com) or in-store at Celtic FC outlets in Scotland and Ireland.



## Spirituality

Sr Maria Robb DC, Spiritual Director



## How amazing is God!

I sometimes like to sit and pray in the early morning, looking out our sitting room window. I can look along the street and watch the sun rising over Tollcross Park. The skies are usually magnificent. How amazing is God!!

Over the past few months, I've found myself reflecting on one of the streetlamps. It's losing its 'sparkle'. The bulb is going.... yet faithfully it gives out the little bit of light that it can give.

It made me think about my faith and the way I witness to God's love. Sometimes I can be so focussed on myself, what I need, how I look, what I want.....that others, even those close to me, take second place, or no place at all. At

times like this I become like the streetlamp. I give out very little light so I'm not much use to guide myself or others

But no matter how bright or dim the streetlight is, the same power of electricity is running through it. That's one thing that doesn't change. So, it is with us. No matter how weak our faith may feel, no matter how selfish or generous we might be, the same constant love of God is pouring into our hearts. God's Love for us isn't measured by our 'brightness'. No, like the constant electricity flowing through the street lamp, God's Love is constantly flowing through us. How amazing is God!!



**Obituaries -  
May they  
Rest In Peace.  
Amen.**

**Michael Ryan** Active Member St Alexander's Denny

**Anne Bunce** Former Member St Joseph's Johnstone

**Joseph Kizis** Former Member St Joseph's Whitburn

**Mary Thomson** Active Member St Catherine's Edinburgh

**Joe Boyd** Former Treasurer St Aloysius Chapelhall

**James McLaren** President Holy Cross Croy

**Tommy McConkey** Former Member St Bernadette's Carntyne

**Marion Robertson** Active Member St Mary's Bo'Ness

**Charles Hinds** Former President Sacred Heart Salsburgh

**Margaret Inch** Former Member St. Margaret's South Queensferry

**Jimmy Keenan** Former Member St Bernadette's Carntyne

**Helen O'Neill** Former President St Ronan's Bonhill

**Andrew Alcorn** Active Member St Michael's Dumbarton

**Joseph Milligan** Active Member Immaculate Conception Bathgate

**Willie Raworth** Former President St Leo the Great Dumbreck

**Bill Mulrooney** Former President St Joseph's Blantyre

**Hugh Breslin** Former Secretary St Francis Port Glasgow

**Frank Fagan** Former Member Sacred Heart and St Anthony's Armadale



# Twinning News

Kate Kelley, National Twinning Officer ✉ [twinning@ssvpscotland.com](mailto:twinning@ssvpscotland.com)

I wish to thank our Scottish Conferences for the wonderful support we received after we highlighted the lack of money in the Project Fund. By February 2023 we received a total of £7,610 and we now have supported eleven Projects. These Projects are all to set up small self-help businesses for families. Some of these receive an interest free loan which will be paid back in a set time, then the money is used to help another family, or buying buffaloes for milk for their own consumption and selling, or setting up training for tailoring, or providing bikes to help children to access education. This has emptied the coffers of the Project Fund, therefore any other cash available would be very welcome.

The photograph is the result of a Fish Vending Project. These fishing nets were bought to free locals from having to pay to hire nets then having to sell their catch to the same company and if there was a poor catch be out of pocket, or even worse in debt, allowing them to set up their own little businesses.

Please note: Any Conference who does not hear from their Twin and wishes me to try to improve the situation, please email me giving, your Conference name and code. I will try to get new information on your Twin.

At the moment I have two Conferences in South Africa who have applied for a Scottish Twin so if any Conference would like to have a new S.A. Twin then please let me know.

Thanks again for your greatly appreciated support. *Kate*



## Social Justice News

Tricia McCartney, Social Justice Co-ordinator

✉ [socialjustice@ssvpscotland.com](mailto:socialjustice@ssvpscotland.com) 🐦 @SocJustSSVPScot

CHALLENGE  
POVERTY  
WEEK



Mon 2nd - Sun 8th  
October 2023

### Using our Vincentian voice to help others.

With the ongoing increase to food and fuel prices never has it been a more important time to think how best we can serve those on the margins and 'be the voice of the poor'.

One such way is to now add Challenge Poverty Week 2023 to your SSVP Conference/Group/Diocesan calendar, which this year will take place from Monday 2nd October – Sunday 8th October. Last year around 400 organisations/groups took part all raising their voices against poverty and uniting with others in calling for a just and equal Scotland. The Poverty Alliance, of which SSVP Scotland is a member, hopes that

even more organisations/groups will get involved this year.

To help with this they've organised a series of Get Inspired Meetings to showcase the different ways you can take part. They'll take you through examples of what other groups have done in previous years and tell you about all the advice and resources they'll make available to you, helping make sure your engagement is a success.

These will be run over various dates from mid-April – end of June 2023. These dates will be sent to your Archdiocesan/Diocesan President for distribution out to Groups/Conferences with the links for registration, so please keep a look out for these. They will also be posted on our usual SSVP social media channels and website plus all information can also be found on

<https://www.povertyalliance.org/challenge-poverty-week-get-inspired-meetings-2023/>

Meantime If you want to chat further about Challenge Poverty Week 2023, then please do get in touch with:

**Alyson Laird, Campaigns Officer at The Poverty Alliance, 94 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 6PH**

e: [alyson.laird@povertyalliance.org](mailto:alyson.laird@povertyalliance.org)  
w: [www.povertyalliance.org](http://www.povertyalliance.org)

She'll be happy to schedule a one-to-one meeting to discuss your plans and how you can get involved. There is also now a Campaigns Mailing List which you can sign up for, for more details on Challenge Poverty Week and The Poverty Alliance Campaigns – please do consider signing up at <https://www.povertyalliance.org/cpw>



## Join Our Team!

SSVP Scotland are looking for a Youth Development Co-ordinator.

# Youth News

## Youth Development Co-Ordinator

✉ youth@ssvpScotland.com

📷 ssvp.youth.scotland

**Going the Extra Mile** Teacher, Yvonne McGuire, Holy Family, Kirkintilloch has registered for the Big Walk (22 miles) Kiltwalk which takes place on April 30th. Yvonne writes "I run a 'Mini Vinnie' group in my school. We regularly meet and look around our school and community to see who we can help. So far this year we have collected toiletries and made up over 100 gift packs for the homeless at Christmas. Now the children are helping me train for the 22.7 mile Kiltwalk in school and all donations will go to SSVP." <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/yvonne-mcguire>



Kiltwalk prep with Mini Vinnies

## Sid Grant, Dunkeld Diocesan Director reports on Youth activities

I am a passionate believer in networking and working together. Recently my wife Maureen and I, attended a networking event at St. John's High School in Dundee and that was an eye opener. It was called "YPI Charity Fair" and I did not know what YPI was and had no idea what it involved. Turns out YPI is Youth Philanthropy and Initiative which is a powerful active citizenship programme encouraging young people to make a difference in their communities while helping them to develop a range of skills. While there I had the pleasure of meeting two of St. John's Senior Vinnies and I wish to share with you a summary of a report from **Megan Reilly, President Senior Vinnies St John's School Dundee**: "In St Johns we have been running the SSVP committee for over 10 years, during these years we have fundraised a large amount of money for the homeless and our local food banks. We meet every Wednesday lunch to discuss what needs done, and how we are going to organise or how we will finance the event. Events such as the Christmas lunch we held with the local foodbank in Lochee. This was a great way for our community to come together, and for all age groups to socialise. We also had to wrap gifts for everyone attending the Christmas lunch, along with Christmas cards made by our junior school pupils. The overall feedback from those who attended the lunch and the people who were cooking the meals, along with teachers said we all did a great job and put a smile on a lot of people's faces. I look forward to seeing how many events or fundraisers we can host before the

end of the year. We have many ideas for the upcoming weeks that will take us to Easter, such as a karaoke and a football tournament to raise funds for SSVP".

Thank you, St. John's High School for organising this and inviting SSVP to attend and a massive thank you to all the young people, who do so much to help their local communities.

### Tutoring Club

**"This club is better than going out to play with your friends!"** One of the early initiatives of the recently appointed Student Co-ordinator, Sean Murphy was, with the support of volunteers, to start a Tutoring Club for pupils at St. Michael's Primary, Glasgow. The Club will run for 5 Wednesdays (Math's & Literacy Skills). 8 volunteers with a ratio of 2 children to 1 volunteer. Children are being chosen because they do not have support at home. Parents will be invited in for the final session to work alongside their child and tutor. This is to up skill them in supporting their child at home. Feedback from Sean after week one: "Tutoring Club went great on Wednesday. .... A quote from a child, "This club is better than going out to play with your friends!" .... All tutor volunteers were brilliant as well, really enthusiastic, and great with the kids".

# International News



## Circular letter and farewell from Brother Renato Lima de Oliveira.

A full copy may be printed from <https://www.ssvpscotland.com/page/2/>.

Praise to our Lord Jesus Christ! Once again, I am delighted to write, for the seventh consecutive year, to my dear fellow members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul around the world, as well as to new members, volunteers and staff at our various Projects, Councils and Conferences. May our Blessed Lady show us the path of charity, promoted so well by Saint Vincent de Paul.

I hope that members of our Society can reflect on the sections of this Circular Letter, and I count on you for any comments, criticisms and suggestions, by e-mail: [cgi.circularletter@gmail.com](mailto:cgi.circularletter@gmail.com). "Anyone who wants to be first, must be the very last of all and servant of all" (Mark 9, 35). Good reading!

## The 'International themed years' Project

The Council General, with the 'International Themed Years' Project its commitment to increase understanding of the lives of the seven founders of our beloved Society of St Vincent de Paul so far the years have covered: 2017 (Bailly de Surcy), 2018 (Lallier), 2019 (Lamache), 2020 (Clave), 2021 (Devaux) and 2022 (Le Taillandier)

## Who was Jules Gossin?

(For fuller info – see Circular letter Section 6. Year of Gossin).

Auguste-Sébastien-Jules Gossin was born on 20 January 1789(59), in the town of Bar-le-Duc in France, 230 km from Paris. His parents were Pierre-François Gossin and Gabrielle Vayeur. Jules Gossin had four brothers: Gabriel, Henri Félicité, Joseph and Pierre-François. He graduated in law from the university of Paris on 1st August 1809, he then worked as a lawyer and magistrate throughout his professional life, including as a councillor to the appeal court in Paris. He wrote dozens of articles and legal texts, relating to the law but also on religious matters.

## Section summary

1. Introduction
2. Council General is making progress.
  - 2.1. Highlights
  - 2.2. Alone, we are nothing.
  - 2.3. Role of Vincentian youth.
  - 2.4. Close relation with the Holy Church.
  - 2.5. Vincentian strengths.
  - 2.6. Approaching canonisation.
  - 2.7. Missionary visits.
3. Approaching elections for the new President General.
  - 3.1. Rule and Electoral Commission.
  - 3.2. The electoral process.
  - 3.3. Finalist.
  - 3.4. Good successors.
4. Spiritual recommendations.
  - 4.1. Good works increase divine grace in us.
  - 4.2. We are all poor.
5. The challenges of post pandemic period.
  - 5.1. The impact of the pandemic.
  - 5.2. Challenges for now and for the future.
    - 5.2.1 Revitalise our Conferences and modernise our practices.
    - 5.2.2 Encourage our members and bring Vincentian training up-to-date.
    - 5.2.3 Improve our procedures and reduce bureaucracy.
    - 5.2.4 Expand the ways we do charity and welcome those who are suffering.
    - 5.2.5 Opening up to collaborative efforts with other organisations, to be more effective.
6. Year of Gossin
  - 6.1. The "international themed years" project
  - 6.2. Who was Jules Gossin?
7. Farewell

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