

Easter 2018

# Ozanam

## News







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## SSVP's newest Conference

See page 5

## Year of Lallier - Page 8



Youth - Pages 6&7

**GET INVOLVED!** We want to know what your conference is up to. If you have a story, share it. The *Ozanam News* relies on your contributions. Send articles and images (jpg or png format only, no PDFs) to **communication@ssvpscotland.com**. Put the name of your conference in the subject

bar and your full contact details. Please provide full caption details for photos. We do not accept paper submissions. Articles should be written by email or attached as a Word document. If you need help please contact the SSVP head office on 0141 226 8833.

### 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.

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# National President's opening words

Jim McKendrick

## Welcome

WE extend a warm welcome to James Farrell, our new Ozanam News editor, and to Patricia McCartney, National Social Justice Co-ordinator. I am sure they will both make significant contributions to the Society.

Our thanks go to Matt Meade, the previous Ozanam News editor for a job well done. We wish Matt well, and assure him of our support and prayers as he begins his journey to the diocesan priesthood, in Salamanca.



Mary with her famous cakes

## Safeguarding

THE recent document from the Bishops' Conference, "In God's Image," outlines how they intend to implement the recommendations of the McClelland Commission.

It is a comprehensive and thoughtful document, grounded in the Gospel message. The Society and its members will, of course, comply with all guidance and directives issued by their Lordships.

In the meantime, I urge you to have another look at the guidelines which appear at the beginning of the manual and apply these strictly.



Mary with other Conference members

## Vincentian Family

IN his Christmas Circular Letter, Renato, our President General stated "We are a great family, following the charisma and spirituality of St. Vincent de Paul. There is no Vincentian Family without cooperation.

As President General, I exhort you to keep alive this initiative, and to seek that the joint projects move from theory to reality. Combining our strengths will guarantee more effective action in favour of those who suffer. United, we are much stronger."



## Celebration

IN August of this year, St Andrew's Cathedral Conference will celebrate its 170 Anniversary. This is cause for great celebration for members in the Glasgow Archdiocese. However, not only was St Andrew's the first Conference in the City of Glasgow, it is also the first Conference in what would become the Archdiocese of Glasgow. Moreover, as the first Conference in the Western District, it is also the first Conference in what would become the Dioceses of Motherwell and Paisley. Around 50% of the Conferences in these two dioceses pre-date the establishment of their dioceses and diocesan councils, and owe their existence to Glasgow Superior Council.

- Read more on our history on page 4

## Scotstounhill retirement

MARY MANNIN, Corpus Christi Conference, Scotstounhill recently celebrated her retirement after 15 years of loyal service. Famed for her delicious soup and fantastic cakes, her presence at events will be missed. 'We wish her all the best for a healthy and happy retirement'.

## 50 Years Service

TOM CANNING of Holy Name, Oakley, was recently presented with a certificate for 50 years service to the SSVP. St Andrews and Edinburgh Archdiocese and particularly the Fife Group, would like to congratulate and thank Tom for his hard work and commitment.

## Christmas Tree Festival

ST JOSEPHS Conference, Stranraer, submitted a tree to a Christmas tree festival at Penningham church of Scotland, Newton Stewart.

The tree was decorated with baubles and cards detailing the works of

SSVP – with further information in the festival catalogue.

As well as raising awareness of the work of SSVP the Conference's tree was one of 70 which helped raise £1462 for the work of Blythswood Care.



# Go West Young Man

## Jim McKendrick on the humble beginnings of the Society in Scotland and its evangelical spirit

### HISTORICAL NOTE

IN the 1840's (when the Society was first established in Scotland) the country was divided into 3 ecclesiastical areas, each presided over by a Bishop as Vicar Apostolic. The Eastern District, centred on Edinburgh; the Western District, Glasgow and the Northern District, encapsulating the mainland North of Inverness and the Islands of Shetland and Orkney. The Restoration of the Hierarchy on March 4 1978 saw Scotland divided into The Province of St Andrews and Edinburgh, with a Metropolitan See and four Suffragan Sees of Aberdeen, Argyll and the Isles, Dunkeld and Galloway, and the Archdiocese of Glasgow directly subject to the Holy See. On May 25 1947, the Archdiocese of Glasgow was erected into a Province, with a Metropolitan See and two Suffragan Sees of Motherwell and Paisley.

### ORIGINS

The St. Vincent de Paul Society came to Scotland in 1845, only twelve years after the very first Conference was founded by Frederic Ozanam and his friends in Paris. The Holy Guild of St Joseph had been founded by Bishop James Gillis (coadjutor Vicar Apostolic, Eastern District) and had 300 members by 1845. It was from this group that the first conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul was founded: it met on May 25 1845, in the rooms of the Guild of St Joseph at 7 Hunter Square, Edinburgh.

### GOING HOME

August 23 1848, three years after the Edinburgh foundation saw the establishment of the first Conference of the Society in Glasgow - in St Andrew's Church, Clyde Street. Under the direction of Father William Gordon the conference was approved by Bishop John Murdoch (coadjutor Vicar apostolic, Western District). Completed in 1816, St. Andrew's re-introduced a Catholic presence in Glasgow after the Reformation. It became a Pro Cathedral in 1884 and a Metropolitan Cathedral in 1947.

The first Conference President was John Burns Bryson, a solicitor (and native of Glasgow) who had joined the Society in Edinburgh the previous year, but had found the lure of returning to Glasgow too hard to resist. The Treasurer was Hugh Margey of Great Clyde Street; the Vice-President was David Rodgers of Anderston and the Secretary, John Trainer of Clyde Terrace. Apart from James McLachlan, the names of the other Active Members do not seem to have been recorded for posterity.

### EARLY YEARS

John Bryson continued as President until his resignation in 1852, he was succeeded by James Walsh. Very quickly, a Central Council was established in February 1849 and a Superior Council in March 1855, with James Walsh as its President. When Bro. Walsh resigned in 1859, he was succeeded by Charles O'Neill, an engineer from Dumbarton, who resigned in 1863 to emigrate to New Zealand (more of this later). In the first decade, fourteen additional Conferences were established, with a further thirteen in the second 10 years. So that by 1872, the Superior Council consisted of thirty Conferences, ranging from Glasgow to Girvan and Rothesay to Airdrie.

### CELEBRATIONS

September 11 1898, the Golden Jubilee of the foundation of the first Glasgow Conference was held. The jubilee was celebrated by Archbishop Eyre with Mass in the Cathedral; a Conference in St Alphonsus' Hall, Charlotte Street; and a rally in the St Andrew's Halls, Kent Road. To allow members to attend the 1933 Centenary Celebrations in Paris, a six-day excursion was arranged by the Glasgow Superior Council and coordinated from the Council offices at 92 Dunlop Street. Travel by train and boat; hotel accommodation with meals included; gratuities to hotel staff; all for the Inclusive Fare of £15 -7s- 6d.

Later this year, August 23 2018, St Andrew's Conference will be 170 years old, a cause for great

celebration and rejoicing for the Archdiocese of Glasgow - the first Conference in the city of Glasgow and the first Conference of the Archdiocese of Glasgow. This is also a significant anniversary for the Dioceses of Motherwell and Paisley. St. Andrew's Conference was the first conference in the Western District, which became, essentially, in 1878 the Archdiocese of Glasgow, which in turn split in 1948 into the present-day Archdiocese of Glasgow and the Dioceses of Motherwell and Paisley.

For almost 100 years from 1855 to 1948, all Vincentian work in the areas now covered by the Dioceses of Motherwell and Paisley was animated by the Glasgow Superior Council. Around 50% of Conferences in these two Dioceses, whose formation dates are before 1948, predate their Diocesan Council and owe their existence to the evangelising zeal of the Superior Council. It would be hard to over-estimate the contribution made by Glasgow Superior Council to the growth and vitality of the Society in the west of Scotland.

### TO OZ AND BEYOND

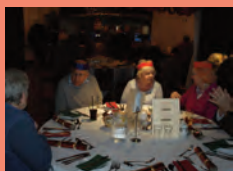
As we saw previously, Charles O'Neill, who was the second president of Glasgow Superior Council (and a member of the Council General), immigrated to New Zealand in 1863. He is credited with establishing the first Conference there in 1876 and for establishing the Society there. Moreover, In 1881, on a mission to Australia at the request of the President General, he was responsible for the formation of the first Conference in New South Wales, and from there the Society spread to the rest of the country. The first St Vincent de Paul Conference in South Africa was established in 1856 at St Mary's in Cape Town by Alexander Wilmot (20), who had immigrated to South Africa from Scotland, where he had been a member of St. John's Conference in the Gorbals. The Society gradually spread throughout South Africa.

Further evidence of the quality and evangelising spirit of these early Vincentians.

**"A great time was had by all!"**

St Stephen's Conference  
Blairgowrie

74 parishioners and SSVF members of St Stephen's, Blairgowrie, gathered to enjoy their annual seniors Christmas lunch.



## Welcome aboard St Machan's, Scotland's newest Conference



From Left: Fr John Deighan, Theresa Hampson (Secretary), Christine Lennox (member), Mary MacPherson (Treasurer), John McManus (President) and Jenni Hanaux (member)

THE Society of St Vincent de Paul continues to show its 'evangelical spirit' with its newest Conference in Scotland taking shape November 2017. There was a great response when new parish priest Fr John Deighan asked if parishioners would be willing to set up a new

Conference. St Machan's, Lennoxtown of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh is part of a cluster with St Paul's, Milton of Campsie and St Dominic's, Torrance.

Despite a long and proud history, St Machan's has never had a Conference. If

there were a need for SSVP assistance in the area, the neighbouring Conference of St Patricks Kilsyth would step in.

Again, St Patricks stepped in, holding an information evening to help gauge interest and formation of the new Conference. 27 parishioners turned out on a late wintry evening in 2017.

The Conference formed in November 2017, with 7 members from all 3 parishes rapidly learning, with spiritual direction from Fr John Deighan, what it is like to run a SSVP Conference.

- For more information contact Fr John Deighan at St Machan's, Lennoxtown.

## Anniversary Mass marks establishment of St Vincent's Hospice Special Works Conference

ON Tuesday February 6 2018 Bishop John Keenan celebrated Mass in St. Mirin's Cathedral Paisley to mark both the 35 anniversary of the establishment of the St. Vincent's Hospice Special Works Conference and the 30 anniversary of the opening of the Hospice. A spiritual atmosphere of celebration was enhanced by the presence of the diocesan choir under Monsignor Denis Carlin.

The Special Works Conference was formed by members of the Society from Conferences in the Deanery of St. Margaret's, Johnstone. In his homily, Bishop John spoke at length about the history of both the Conference and the Hospice.

In particular, the bishop stressed the bravery of those who decided that a hospice was the answer to the



Bishop John Keenan, Canon Oliver Freney and Canon Sean Cunney with members of the Special Works Conference and hospice

problem that they experienced as part of their normal SSVP activity of visiting the sick at home.

The first Hospice in North Road, Johnstone opened following 5 years of intensive fundraising by the Conference; over the years this evolved into the 8 bed Hospice at Howwood, which opened in 1993. The Hospice is now owned and managed by a separate charity, but, in recognition of its roots, the Society remains closely related to the Hospice. The functions of the Special Works Conference today are, firstly, to transfer Vincentian donations from

Conferences to the Hospice. This supports the Hospice's work in providing maximum comfort to patients during their stay. Secondly, the conference aims to maintain and raise the profile of the Hospice, both in the Society and in the wider community.

In an address to the congregation at the end of Mass, Kate Lennon, the Chief Executive of St. Vincent's Hospice, gave thanks to those who had the vision to begin the work of the Hospice and looked forward with hope to the next thirty years.



Bishop Keenan with CEO Kate Lennon



Bishop Keenan delivers his homily



## Its a Wrap

SENIOR pupils from Queen Margaret Academy added the finishing touches to Christmas gifts which were then distributed by St Margaret's SSVP Conference, Ayr.



## Mini Vinnies Bag the lot!



Mini Vinnies with Conference Sisters McLoughlan and Turnbull.

MINI Vinnies from St Margaret's Primary School, Dunfermline, assisted packing bags of food, sweets, toys and presents for distribution at Christmas.

## Mini Vinnies the difference makers at St Joseph's Kilmarnock

"EACH of us can make a difference but together we can make a change" was the motto of St Joseph's Church Mini Vinnies, Kilmarnock, at the beginning of their winter project. "It's shocking that in 2017, over 130,000 people in Britain, half of whom are children, went hungry on Christmas day" said Amélie Davidson of St Joseph's.

In light of these statistics, the Mini Vinnies of St Joseph's organised a collection of winter essentials throughout November, to give to the people who go to the weekly SSVP drop in session. Due to the generosity of parishioners the Mini vinnies were able to attend the annual Christmas party for visitors of the drop in sessions. The winter



Mini Vinnies and members of St Joseph's Conference Kilmarnock

essentials were then given out as gifts at the party to over 50 guests. 'Everybody was very grateful' added Miss Davidson.

Guests enjoyed a Kilmarnock Pie (donated by Brownings the Bakers) with beans, and then some biscuits and yule log (donated by Asda). "I think we can say that we definitely did help to make a difference to people's lives this Christmas" said Miss Davidson.

## 'Absolutely outstanding' effort by St Mungo's pupils

PUPILS from St Mungo's High School, Falkirk, have donated to local SSVP Conferences for many years and their efforts in December 2017 were described as 'absolutely outstanding' by Stirlingshire Group President Laura Johnston.

Local Conferences were invited to the school for refreshments and a concert before collecting 'well over 100 parcels' from the pupils.



Pupils, Parcels and SSVP Conference Members





## Cardboard City kids raise awareness and money

THE Mini Vinnie group at St Mary's Duntocher, led by Miss McDowall and Mr Killough, planned and organised a Cardboard City day as part of their preparation for Christmas during Advent.

Members of the Mini Vinnie group braved the elements to live in their own cardboard city homes built in the school playground.

The primary seven children had to solve a number of practical problems while constructing the shelters and they showed great teamwork and resilience during their day outdoors.

The children remained outdoors for most of the day, enduring the cold and rain. They delayed eating lunch until late in the afternoon to experience a little of what it must feel like to be homeless.

The Mini Vinnies were visited in the playground by younger pupils and this enabled them to pass on what they had learned about homelessness to others.

One of the children commented, "I thought it was really fun at first but all

the rain made the cardboard collapse and then it was really cold. I think it would be really hard for someone to live outside all the time"

Father Paul Milarvie and members of St. Mary's SSVP Conference visited cardboard city and were very impressed by the children's enthusiasm, despite the rain pouring and the wind howling.

Visitors were invited to donate towards a collection for the Ozanam Centre in Glasgow, which the Mini Vinnies hope to visit in the New Year.

The group also collected and wrapped Christmas gifts, which were delivered to the Ozanam Centre in time for Christmas.

An 'experience' of rough sleeping



Mini Vinnies & SSVP members

## St Col's Stocking boost

ST COLUMBKILLE'S Conference, Rutherglen, had their stocks boosted from donations from local schools; Fernhill, Trinity High, St Columbkilles Primary and Oakland Nursery. The Church distributes roughly 30 food bags per week to the less fortunate and have thanked all staff and pupils for their generous support, particularly at Christmas and New Year.



Fernhill pupils help pack



## Song and dance as Turnbull High pupils visit care home

MEMBERS of the SSVP at Turnbull High School, Bishopbriggs, were accompanied by teachers on a visit to Mavis Bank Care Home. Singing from sisters Blythe and Desiree Fernandes and Irish dancing from Sophia Halpin, Breda Houston and Mia Crawford entertained the residents.

"We danced and gave out chocolates to the residents, you

could see that they were having a great time" said one pupil. The visitors were thankful for the welcome adding, "see you next time!"



Pupils and teachers from Turnbull High

## St. Gabriel's School Talk

OUR Lady of the Missions Primary School welcomed along Bro. Jim O'Hagan of St Gabriel's Conference, Merrylee, during Catholic Education Week February 2018. Mr O'Hagan spoke to pupils about the history of the Society, its purpose and its activities.

"All the youngsters listened attentively, and at the end were full of questions about the Society, so much so that Ms. Devlin [Depute Head Teacher] had to call a halt as time ran out!" said Mr O'Hagan. Mr O'Hagan concluded the talk by suggesting that the school establish a Mini Vinnies group and was thanked with a hand made card from pupils.

# Year of Lallier

## National President Jim McKendrick investigates the life of the early Vincentian

"AS Secretary General, you are after M. Bailly, the Society's soul. The unity, and from it the vigour and perseverance, of the different Conferences depend on you. Attend particular assemblies frequently; see the presidents from time to time; take part in the meetings of the administrative council; prod sometimes the excessive tranquility of the President General (Bailly)."

– Frederic Ozanam in a letter to Lallier, October 5 1837

Francois Lallier was born in the Burgundy-region town of Joigny, in Yonne, on June 22 1814. Lallier's father was a medical doctor, his uncles a presiding magistrate and professor respectively. Lallier met Frederic Ozanam at the University of Paris and remained a close friend until Frederic's death. Lallier gave the following account to a friend of how he met Ozanam:

"As I left the Law School, generally alone, I noticed that a small group of students, always composed of the same members, were standing on the footpath near Rue Soufflot. In the middle of the group was one who spoke warmly, and was listened to. I wondered, who is this young rooster to whom those fellows pay so much attention? – I recognised Ozanam.

"I drew near the group and joined in the conversation... When the others had dispersed, we resumed our conversation."

It was the beginning of a friendship that would last a lifetime and to which others would be added. Ozanam, Lallier and the others would see each other daily. Often meeting for lunch at a small restaurant on Rue des Canettes, around the corner from Emmanuel Bailly's office near the church of St. Sulpice.

Lallier was one of the most vigorous participants in the debates of the History Conference. From the beginning, he was always at Ozanam's side in initiating the formation of the Conference of Charity. He was also instrumental in establishing the Notre Dame Lenten Conferences, which are still present today. In 1834 Lallier, Ozanam and Lamache approached Archbishop de Quelen with a proposal to offer this lecture series to draw the young Catholics of Paris to the cathedral during Lent.

Years later, Paul Lamache remembered his friends Ozanam and Lallier, writing: "Ozanam... was easily with us first among friends. Lallier came second; he had a strong character, extreme kindness, sound common sense, more reason than imagination, more solidity than brilliancy. His demeanour was reserved, even cold, but beneath it he had a warm heart, melting in close friendship into extreme tenderness. He was serious as a

judge, and this characteristic joined to a simple and affectionate cordiality which gained for him among us the title of Father Lallier."

A highly gifted lawyer, Lallier was renowned for his precise use of language, and he applied himself avidly to such work. In 1835 he was entrusted by Bailly with formulating the articles of the St. Vincent de Paul Society Rule, and in 1837, he was appointed the Society's Secretary-General. During Ozanam's time away in Lyon, he relied on Lallier to advance his vision of the Society within the Paris Council and to exert influence on Bailly.

Lallier had a formidable reputation as a lawyer in Sens. He began as a deputy judge and became a presiding magistrate in 1857. In addition to working with the poor, Lallier had an active interest in archaeology. In 1844 he was a founding member of the Archaeological Society of Sens, an ancient city with prehistoric mounds and evidence of Roman occupation. Several times he was the organisation's president. He contributed regularly to its publication, the Bulletin – the most extensive contribution being an 1845 article about the Roman inscriptions on the wall enclosing the city.

Nominated for the National Assembly in 1848, Lallier wrote a position paper containing many of the progressive positions found in the writings of his friend Ozanam. The many other well-researched and reasoned articles by Lallier include essays on creation of a single taxing system (1850), abolition of slavery (1852) and universal suffrage (1865). Over these years, he also published several articles on poverty in France and the relationship between poverty and economic systems.

Pope Pius IX honoured Lallier with the title of Knight of St. Gregory the Great and recognised him as a distinguished "magistrate, writer and scientist who carried high and firm the flag of religion." He was awarded The Cross of the Legion of Honour in 1873 for his years of civic service.

In 1879, a few years before the celebration of the Society's Golden Jubilee, President General Baudon commissioned Lallier to write an account of the Society's origins. Lallier undertook this work and submitted an initial draft to the other surviving founder members: Le Taillandier, Lamache and Devaux. With their collaboration, a pamphlet was published in 1882 under the title, "Origins of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, according to the Recollections of its First Members."

**Francois Lallier died on December 23 1886, in Sens.**



## SS John & Columbus' Conference exceed expectation

Ss John & Columbus' Conference latest Christmas hamper project totalled over 200 bags of groceries. These were distributed to 160 families along with Christmas presents. The tally exceeded last years total of 150 bags for 120 families!







## Year 15 for Inverclyde homeless and lonely Christmas lunch

VINCENTIANS in Inverclyde joined together for the 15th consecutive year to provide Christmas lunch to the homeless and lonely. Around 60 people attended the open event, including regulars of the

Inverclyde homeless forum Friday lunches and 2 local drug rehabilitation centres.

Vincentians provided minibus transport, cooked and served up the food to guests. For the second year music was provided

by youngsters of St Colm's, Kilmacolm. A regular from the Inverclyde homeless forum contributed with a special treat by performing a moving rendition of Ave Maria.



### St Joseph's Festive Party



ST Joseph's Conference, Burntisland, enjoy a senior Christmas party. Complete with an elf called Marjory, a fantastic accordionist called Brian and resident music provider, Morris.



## Our Lady of Mount Carmel welcome local community

OUR Lady of Mount Carmel Conference, Kilmarnock, joined with 75 guests from their parish and local community for their annual Christmas party. The party, held in Onthank Community Centre, included a 3 course meal, with a conference brother

providing food and other members waiting tables.

Fr Martin Chambers led a sung grace before the meal and joined in the festivities afterwards, once the dancing began. 'Everyone took to the floor' said Rosemary Brennan, President of the

Conference. 'Even Santa made an appearance!'

The party included a raffle with prizes kindly donated by local businesses. Guests agreed it had been a wonderful day and were already looking forward to the next one.

# A letter from India

## Twinning report

GREETINGS to you from Brother Jakkula Mohan Rao. President, Central Council of Eluru, Andhra Pradesh, India, in the name of our Lord Jesus.

We sincerely thank you all for your sincere and dedicated service for the upliftment of the poor and downtrodden in our Central Council - through your twinning grants to our rural and tribal area Conferences. We appreciate the great work you have been doing through our Society in India; you show your love for the people of India.

As you know rural India is very poor, though the cities are highly developed. India is a rich country with very poor people. Rural India is far too backward and the struggle of the lower communities is bitterly felt especially in our Central Council of Eluru.

In view of the above, we are happy that Scotland came forward, twinning 12 Conferences out of 290 across the Diocese of Eluru. Let us thank our almighty God for all the good things we received from Him through your good hearts and recall all of the brothers and sisters who are coming forward and helping our Conferences from your country.

We are ever grateful to Scotland for their generous and philanthropic mind, helping the vulnerable people in our jurisdiction. Kindly accept our thanks from our Conferences to our donors.

## Scot's respond

IN response, £45,000 Rupees (approximately £4000) was sent in January 2018 to support a number of Projects. The funds were collected from Twinning – special donations

donated by Conferences across Scotland.

For more info contact Twinning President Ian Tierney: [twinning@ssvpscotland.com](mailto:twinning@ssvpscotland.com)

## Dates for the Diary

- 23/4/18 - Annual Ozanam Talk  
Blessed John Duns Scotus, Gorbals
- 18/5/18 - Annual Glasgow Concert  
Woodside Halls, Glasgow
- 13/6/18 - National Youth Day  
St Mirin's Hall, Paisley
- 16/6/18 - National Mass  
Gillis Centre, Edinburgh
- 21/6/18 - Glasgow Mini Vinnies Day  
"The Space" 20 Bellisle St, Glasgow
- 24/8/18 - Glasgow 170th Mass  
St Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow
- 01/9/18 - National Meeting  
Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel, Clydebank
- 29/9/18 - Annual VIP Mass,  
Carfin
- 27/10/18 - National Retreat  
St Mirin's, Paisley

## May they rest in peace | obituaries

- **Joe McDade**, active member, St Mary's, Paisley.
- **John Glancy**, former member, St Marie's, Kirkcaldy.
- **John Lavery**, former member, St Bernadette's, Motherwell.
- **Bernard Gonet**, group president, Inverclyde, secretary, St Laurence, Greenock, Holy Spirit SWC, Port Glasgow.
- **John Lenehan**, former member, St Gabriel's, Merrylee.
- **Hugh Parr**, active member, St Augustine's, Coatbridge.
- **Ellen Hamill**, former member, Corpus Christi, Scotstounhill.
- **Antonio Pieroni**, president, St Winin's, Kilwinning.
- **Catherine Lynch**, secretary, St Columba's, Viewpark.
- **Davina Cunningham**, former president, St Andrew's, Dumfries.
- **John Rourke**, former secretary, St Mary's Star Of The Sea, Largs.
- **Bernadette Doyle**, secretary, St Winin's, Kilwinning.
- **Bridget Waterson**, president, St Margaret's, Ayr.
- **Harry Mulholland**, former president, St John's, Port Glasgow.
- **James Biggar**, president, St Teresa's, Possilpark.
- **Samuel Morrison**, active member, St Bernadette's, Tullibody.
- **Elaine Doyle**, active member, St Andrew's, Livingston.
- **Joy Docherty** former president, St Albert's, Pollokshields.
- **Tommy Burnside**, former member, St Leonard's, East Kilbride.
- **Ellen Curran**, active member, Our Lady, SS Margaret & Andrew, Duns.

**Vincentian Reflections are available for free:**  
[www.ssvpscotland.com/members/spirituality](http://www.ssvpscotland.com/members/spirituality)

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
April 15, 2018  
Gospel: (Luke 24: 35-48)

Jesus stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

**Reflections:**  
Jesus "was made known" in repentance and forgiveness. Forgiveness is an encounter with the risen Christ. When we offer and receive forgiveness our hearts begin to beat because of the encounter with the risen Christ within us. This is resurrection life "You are forgiven." This is our witness to the resurrection: "I forgive you." We must walk and act like a forgiven people. Forgiveness is the virtue that enables us not to allow past hurts to diminish our decisions and actions in the here and now. Forgiveness opens up the space for creating together with the one forgiven a new future where we can live in peace. This is how Jesus is known. Giving Love. p.125

**Vincentian Meditation:**  
The Manual of the Society states: The Conference meeting is the heart from which SVSP activity radiates and the sanctuary where its work is organized. The meeting provides a privileged occasion wherein the love of Christ is manifested member to member, where members are seen, one to another, embracing each other as brother and sister, where the healing presence of Christ can be experienced and can grow in overflowing dimensions that can be shared with others. (13 Manual, P.95)

**Discussion:** (Share your thoughts on the readings after a moment of silence)

Are our Conference meetings truly a place of forgiveness and peace?

**Chanting Prayer:**  
Lord Jesus, your resurrection brought forgiveness to the disciples.  
...fill us with your peace!





# Vincentians can be the 'Voice of the Poor'

New Social Justice Co-ordinator  
**Patricia McCartney** Reflects on **Food Insecurity**



IN the September 2017 issue of the Ozanam News, Joe MacEachen SSVP Diocesan President for Motherwell and representative on Vincentians in Partnerships again highlighted Pope Francis' message to be a Church for the poor and said "the need to speak out and act on social justice issues is indeed central to our work".

For more than five years in my previous work with the Big Lottery Fund I attended numerous seminars, conferences and roundtable talks on the topic of food poverty (or as it is becoming more widely termed 'Food Insecurity').

**Food Insecurity has been defined as 'the experience of not having access to a sufficient quantity or quality of food needed to stay healthy.'**

The degree of severity of food insecurity that an individual or a family may experience can vary. Mild food insecurity involves worrying about the ability to afford food,

whilst at the most acute end of the spectrum, severe food insecurity means experiencing actual hunger.

The continued increase and use of food banks and the different ways in which food is provided to those in need is disturbing. Currently there is no systematic measure of household food insecurity in Scotland. There is data from the Trussell Trust, the UK's largest food bank provider but it is recognised that the full scale of food insecurity is much greater than the data provided by them. This is because people may use non Trussell Trust food banks, or they may rely on friends, family, charities or churches to help them out at times of crisis. Many people don't access emergency food at all. **The many individuals and families that Vincentians provide food support to are not included in any statistical returns to government** and therefore one can easily begin to appreciate that the true scale of food

insecurity is not known.

Running in parallel with this there is convincing evidence demonstrating that too many people in Scotland are experiencing food insecurity as a result of poverty, not because there is a shortage of food. This is borne out by research carried out by the Poverty Alliance Scotland, Child Poverty Action Group and other recognised leaders in this field.

In taking up the mantle and collaborating with likeminded organisations as proposed by Joe MacEachen, **the Society can become an integral player in the Social Justice arena and 'be the voice of the poor'.**

The signing up in 2017 in support of the 'Give Me Five' child benefit campaign paves the way in demonstrating the Society's willingness to support and collaborate with other organisations to help combat poverty.

In 2016 the Scottish Government announced it would

be launching 'A Good Food Nation' Bill. The date of this launch has been delayed but it is now expected that it will be open for public consultation in autumn 2018. This means we all can play a role in having a say about what a good food nation would mean to Scotland.

Your Vincentian works and projects are excellent examples of what the Society is doing in Scotland. Letting others know about these is vital if we want to influence and help make a systematic change.

In my new role as Social Justice Coordinator for the National Council I aim to do this by engaging with key organisations and contribute to the debate whilst remaining true to our Vincentian values and the ethos of the Society. As a member of my local parish Conference I will continue to learn from those I serve so that I can speak and 'be the voice of the poor'.

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