

Around the Region



North Antrim and North East Derry Area celebrated Mass for members in Portrush on Sunday 16 November.



George McGrath, Area President of SVP in South and East Belfast, is pictured meeting with teachers and students at St Joseph's College to accept a very generous donation.





Grace and Oran raised over £83 for SVP by selling seashells they had gathered on a beach. Imelda Ralph, Conference President of St James Whiteabbey, is pictured thanking the family for their donation.



We are grateful that the Mayor of Ards and North Down Borough Council **CIlr Gillian McCollum** has chosen SVP North Down and Ards Area as one of the charities she is supporting during her term.

In April members of Errigal SVP held a fundraising quiz and raffle in Ballerin Community Hub. A fantastic total of £530 was raised which will really help the Conference to continue to support families in the community.

Errigal SVP expressed their gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the event including local businesses that very kindly donated prizes for the raffle and the quizmaster who volunteered his services!



Around the Region



Congratulations to Dan Turley who ran his 300th Parkrun at Colin Glen Forest Park on his 70th birthday to raise funds for SVP from family locally and internationally.

St Anthony Craigavon hosted a Senior Citizens trip to the north coast in August. Everyone had a very enjoyable and memorable day out!



Five SVP members from St Patrick Banbridge enjoyed a day out with 57 senior citizens - they visited Warrenpoint Garden Centre and dined in the Burrendale Hotel.

Thanks to Mark Campbell.





Congratulations to Dymphna Clenaghan and her sister on finishing their Camino journey in their SVP t-shirts in August while raising **£1626.65** for SVP Northern Region.

Martina Tierney of St Dismas Prison was guest speaker on the subject of Prison Visitation at a recent meeting of SVP members.

She is pictured with John Scullion of St Mary Ahoghill, Geraldine McKeever of St Mary Portglenone, JJ Dougan of St Mary Ahoghill, and John Carey of St Mary Portglenone.



Around the Region



West Belfast Area President Valerie McGreevy and member Gerry Barrett are pictured with Ayra Javidmorandi, who was very excited to receive a laptop and accessories which was donated by a local Lisburn IT company, Xperience.

The laptop will help Ayra with his studies and we wish him every success with his education!

The Little Prayer Book

Maire McCormack of Blessed Virgin Ballymena has compiled 'The Little Prayer Book' and it is Maire's wish that donations from purchasing the little volume will be used to enhance the work of SVP.

If you would like to request copies of The Little Prayer Book, please email: maire.mccormack2019@gmail.com





Immaculate Conception Newcastle Conference Educating the Community

For a number of years, Immaculate Conception Newcastle has been helping clients change their lives around by offering opportunities to get back into the job market through education.

After much hard work we are beginning to see the fruits of our labour with several clients having completed degrees and technical courses in a variety of disciplines. The impact on our clients has borne great benefits.

It all began a few years ago during one of our regular meetings. Members looked for ways to ensure our clients had opportunity to move away from social poverty and become less reliant on the benefits merry-go-round. People needed to regain their self-esteem.

The Rule: 1.10 Promotion of self-sufficiency
“Vincentians endeavour to help the poor to help themselves...” Simple – it was there in the Rule in black and white.

We needed to find a route back into employment for our clients or create opportunities for people needing to change their career path.

Conference members engaged with the South Eastern Regional College Newcastle Campus and identified Access and Restart Diploma courses which allowed people of all ages and backgrounds to find a way back into employment. The courses were free and open to people with little or no qualifications. Courses were only a maximum of 15 hours per week and lasted one or two years depending on the entry level. A creche was provided to all parents. It was the perfect fit for many of our clients and indeed some had already booked onto the course.

The teaching staff at the South Eastern Regional College Newcastle Campus were very helpful and reassuring to those clients who might have been a bit apprehensive.

The course benefited people from different backgrounds, all ages, the unemployed, parents struggling with children at home, individuals looking for career change, people with learning difficulties or disabilities and people with little or no qualifications. Entry level was simple and the college was a tremendous help.

With some clients there were apprehensions, especially with those having no qualifications, feeling disadvantaged in some way or because in some way they didn't feel their 'head was in the right place'. However, once they attended an introductory day at the college those anxieties soon disappeared.

The entry level is at varying levels from Access course to Level 2 Restart Education leading to a Diploma, a qualification which is validated by Queen's University Belfast and recognised by many other colleges and professional trade organisations. It can lead on to careers in nursing, Social Services, IT, teaching, working with disadvantaged children and a variety of trades in construction, hairdressing and many other opportunities.

Many of our clients have progressed to degrees in nursing, Social Services and other career paths and we, in Immaculate Conception Newcastle, feel very privileged to have helped them along their journey.

“The support from Immaculate Conception Newcastle has been a lifeline for me and my family during my university studies to become a mental health nurse. As a wife and mother of three boys, balancing full time education and placements with my family responsibilities has been challenging...I am truly grateful for this support. It has made a meaningful difference in our lives.”

Quote from mental health nurse graduate

After completing the Restart Education course, we in SVP became aware that many of our clients felt disadvantaged and even became discouraged when they sought to enroll on a degree course or tried to gain a technical qualification for their chosen career. Bearing in mind some had been unemployed for many years and were now mature students, they now had to cope with the added pressures of studying while running a family, travel costs, childminding and a multitude of other issues. The system didn't seem to encourage these people to make the hard decisions, and this is where we in the Immaculate Conception Newcastle knew we could help. Help was tailored to the individual's need and could be as simple as helping with travel, books, IT, creche etc.

“I never imagined I'd get a first-class honours degree! It's been a challenging three years but it was worth it and I couldn't have done it without help from SVP, you all helped more than you imagine.... I've been offered a job.”

Quote from mature student



“As a Nursing student at Queen's University Belfast I feel incredibly privileged pursuing a career that really makes a difference...The support my family is receiving from SVP helps to ease the burden and allow students like me to focus on studies rather than how we are going to afford next week's food and heating.”

Quote from QUB graduate

We, in Immaculate Conception Newcastle, have been amazed at the results and how a relatively small amount of help and encouragement has achieved such positive outcomes. The resilience of clients and how they have adapted and coped with their life changes has been very encouraging. With our help they have made a huge difference to their lives, wellbeing and their local community.

Shaun Killough, Kilmegan Area President

Member Recognition

Anthony McAllister (*affectionately known as Tony*) was presented with a certificate and medal to commemorate his 50 years of service to St Vincent de Paul.

A member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Drumbo, Tony started home and hospital visitation in the area. He was responsible for a Twinning project with Baku in Northern Ghana and during his visit there saw women grinding flour with an old hand mill, so he raised funds to buy a new modern mill, aptly named the "Carryduff flour mill".

Tony served as Conference President and two terms as Area President in South and East Belfast.



He is pictured at his presentation with his family and with Spiritual Advisor **Fr Michael Sheehin**; **Una O'Hara**, Conference President; and Area President for South and East Belfast, **George McGrath**.

Member Recognition



Members of St Patrick Lisburn are pictured at their Conference meeting with the Mayor's Community Awards 2025 certificate.

The Conference received the certificate to recognise the ongoing commitment of SVP to community work in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City council area.

Speaking at The Mayor's Community Awards, The Right Worshipful The Mayor of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Councillor **Kurtis Dickson**, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers and organisations that devote their time and energy to improving the lives of others.

The event was attended by members of the community, civic leaders and local heroes to honour their dedication, hard work and positive impact.



Congratulations to **Finola Coyne** who has been an invaluable member of Most Holy Redeemer Ballyholme for over 28 years.

Congratulations



Congratulations to members who have given 450 years long service to the Society between them! They were presented with certificates and medals in recognition of their extraordinary commitment to St Joseph Newry.

Among the dedicated members is a married couple who, together, have given 104 years to the work of SVP. They may well be the longest-serving couple in the Northern Region!

Celebrations have taken place to recognise 145 years' service by members of St Mochai Saintfield.



Fr Anthony McHugh presented **Margaret Rolston** with her medal and certificate for 25 years' service.

Harry Murray, Anne Murray, and Val McMurray were each presented with certificates by Fr McHugh for 40 years' service.



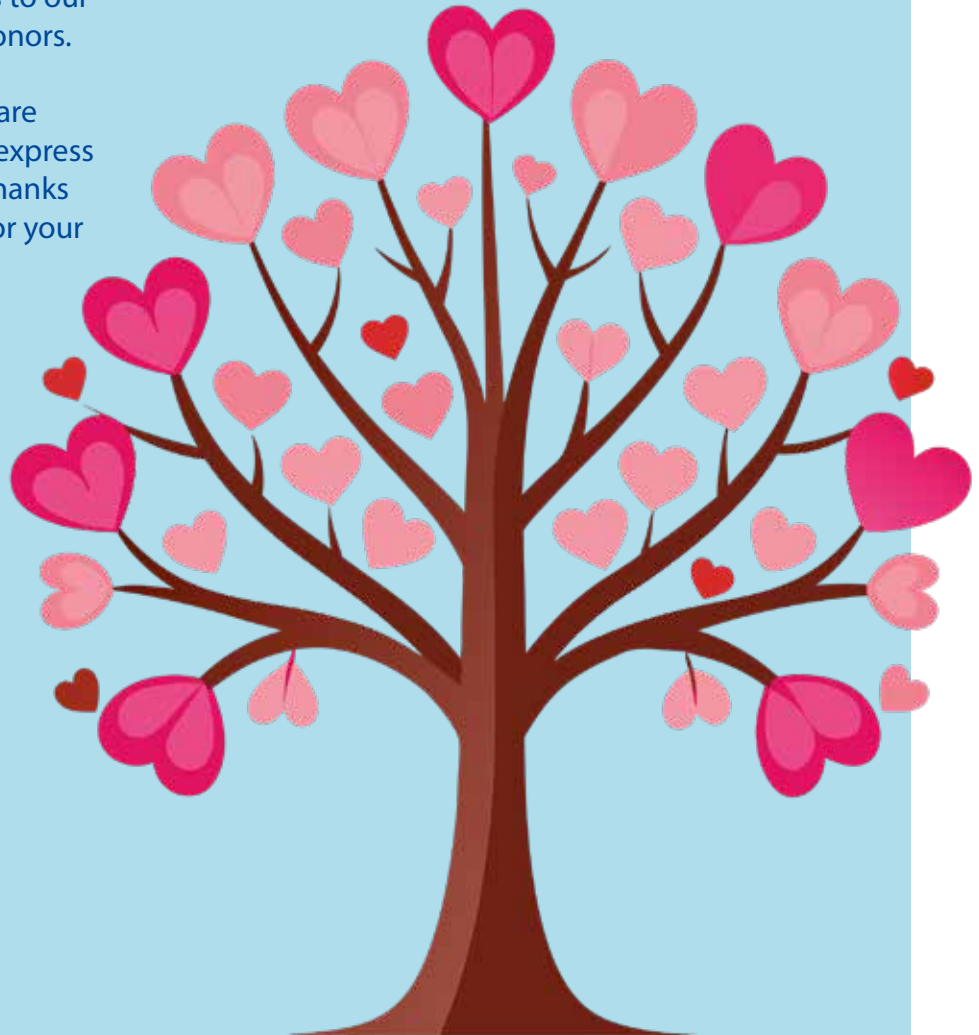
Vibrant Volunteers

Thank you to everyone involved in making a difference with SVP in local communities across the Northern Region.

From our Conference members to our Vincent's volunteers and our donors.

Your vibrancy and enthusiasm are palpable and we would like to express our gratitude with a heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your commitment and dedication.

*Thank
you!*



Area Gatherings

A series of Area Gatherings brought together members and community partners while reconnecting and refocusing efforts on helping those living in poverty across the Northern Region.



These important events provide an opportunity for SVP's local Conferences to share experiences, identify emerging needs, and collaborate on solutions for alleviating poverty and isolation in their local communities.

The Area Gathering programme includes group discussions, updates on National and Regional initiatives, guest speakers, and space for prayer and reflection, in keeping with the Society's ethos of service deeply dedicated to faith and compassion.

Derry and Strabane



Kilmegan



Newry & Mourne



North Down & Ards



South & East Belfast



West Belfast



SVP Lenten Retreat

The Annual SVP Lenten Retreat led by Fr Perry took place in Drumalis and was attended by members from across the Northern Region.



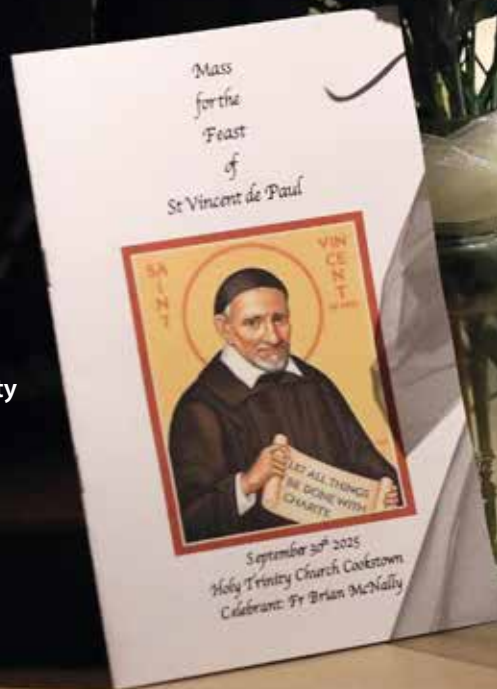
National President Visits Northern Region

Newly elected National President, Teresa Ryan, was warmly welcomed on her first visit to the Northern Region where she met members and attended a meeting of the Regional Council.



The Feast of St Vincent de Paul

A large congregation of SVP members gathered in Holy Trinity Church Cookstown to mark the Feast Day of St Vincent de Paul with a special Mass.



The celebration paid tribute to the organisation's volunteers and highlighted the essential support they provide to individuals and families in local communities throughout the Northern Region.

The Mass was celebrated with reverence and reflection, with the officiating priest, Fr McNally, using his homily to speak about the enduring importance of SVP's work. He emphasised the compassion, selflessness, and commitment shown by members who, often quietly

and without recognition, offer practical and emotional support to those facing hardship.

He reflected on the life and legacy of St Vincent de Paul, drawing parallels between his example and the efforts of SVP members today who uphold his mission of service, dignity and care.

The Mass was attended by Sean Gallagher, the newly elected SVP Regional President for the Northern Region.



Sean said:

"I am grateful that so many members of SVP in the Northern Region attended the Feast Day Mass and I would commend our volunteers for their deep-rooted dedication, as I know that their involvement extends far beyond providing financial or material assistance during our core work of Home Visitation. SVP members listen and befriend individuals and families navigating difficult times.

It was a particular honour for me personally, that my first event as Regional President for the Northern Region was in attending this Feast Day Mass and delivering a reading from Corinthians."

In conclusion Sean thanked Fr McNally for celebrating the Mass, Sonlight for leading the congregation in song and SVP Regional Ambassador Malachi Cush for adding his own blend of music and worship, by performing the Psalm, offering an uplifting backdrop to the Mass.

The Feast of St Vincent de Paul





The Feast of St Vincent de Paul





Council Illuminations

Council buildings were illuminated in honour of St Vincent de Paul Day on the weekend of 27 September.

Antrim & Newtownabbey:

Antrim Civic Centre, Antrim;
Ballyclare Town Hall, Ballyclare;
Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey

Causeway Coast & Glens:

Cloonavin, Coleraine

Derry City & Strabane:

Council offices (Derry)

Fermanagh & Omagh:

Enniskillen Castle, Enniskillen;
Strule Arts Centre, Omagh

Lisburn & Castlereagh City:

Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn

Mid & East Antrim:

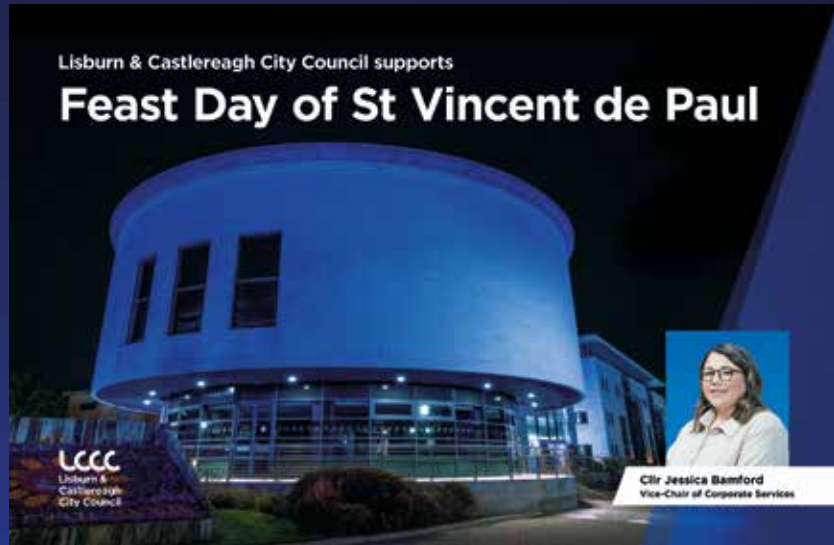
The Braid, Ballymena;
Carrickfergus Museum, Carrickfergus;
Larne Market Yard, Larne

Mid Ulster:

Bridewell, Magherafelt;
Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown;
Hill of the O'Neill, Dungannon

Newry, Mourne & Down:

Newry Town Hall, Newry;
Down Leisure Centre, Downpatrick



ANNUAL APPEAL

With requests for help set to exceed 50,000 in the Northern Region in 2025, the Society launched its Annual Appeal, urging public support for families under pressure and faced with impossible choices.

The theme, 'The Wonder of Christmas', reflects the rising calls from people 'wondering' how they will put food on the table, keep homes warm, and afford gifts for under the tree this December.

Speaking at the launch, SVP National President, Teresa Ryan, said:

"This Christmas, too many parents are wondering how they'll manage the basics. At the end of October the number of calls for requests for help were up 7% on last year, and we expect overall requests for 2025 to exceed 250,000 across the island. Our Appeal asks the public to share the wonder of Christmas by helping families face Christmas with dignity."

"Rising costs mean many households cannot afford the basics, especially one-parent families, low-income workers, people with disabilities and their carers, and those in insecure housing. Every donation ensures we can respond quickly and locally where need is greatest."

In 2025 £5.5m was spent by SVP providing the gift choice in local communities across the Northern Region, helping alleviate poverty in households where SVP volunteers visited homes in confidence to offer practical assistance.

This help included vouchers for essentials and that little bit extra for under the tree to bring the joy of the festive season to those who are going without.



People living in food poverty, fuel poverty, those in need of help with school uniforms and books, transport, access to devices, and fees, so children can take part like their classmates, and those who just want to be able to afford the presents their children have carefully written down with anticipation on their letters to Santa.



Malachi Cush, SVP Northern Region Ambassador, performed 'O Holy Night' with members of the Dublin Gospel Choir at the launch, as broadcasters Marty Whelan and Mary Kennedy officially launched this year's Annual Appeal.

SVP Head of Fundraising Elizabeth Smyth outlined the communication campaign and encouraged workplaces, community groups and schools to take part in fundraising or hosting a Christmas Jumper Day for SVP. Elizabeth said:

"There is a deep warmth towards the Society's work across the Northern Region. With the public's generosity, we can bring help and hope to families who need it most, and ensure children can experience the wonder of Christmas."



On Sunday 7 December, the Society of St Vincent de Paul hosted RTE One's Sunday Worship for the Second Sunday of Advent.



Celebrated by Fr Paschal Scallon, the Mass included an introduction by National Vice-President, Mary Waide, and readings and prayers of the faithful by members of the Society, with a focus on the charity and supporting people experiencing poverty during the Christmas period.



**ANNUAL APPEAL
DONATIONS
FROM AROUND
THE REGION**



SVP members are pictured fundraising for the Annual Appeal in Asda Cookstown.



SVP members were grateful to be invited to join with other charities to receive a generous donation for the SVP Annual Appeal from **Bannvale Credit Union** - *thank you*.



Pauline Brown, SVP Regional Manager, was invited to attend a meeting of Belfast Rotary to educate members on the work of SVP and accept a generous donation for the Annual Appeal.



Thanks to **Rev Eben Grobelaar** of St John the Evangelist Church of Ireland and **Fr Derek**, Parish Priest of Kilmore and Killyleagh, for braving the weather and staging a Black Santa sit out for the SVP Annual Appeal.

Thank you



Thank you to the **Brian Conlon Foundation** for the generous donation of £20,000 for the SVP Annual Appeal.

**ANNUAL APPEAL
DONATIONS
FROM AROUND
THE REGION**

Thank you to **Donaghadee Rotary Club** for donating meat vouchers to Most Holy Redeemer Ballyholme for the Annual Appeal.



Thank you to **Cookstown Credit Union** for helping the SVP Annual Appeal with a generous donation of vouchers.



Kate Mullan of Errigal SVP Conference is pictured collecting £200 worth of vouchers from **Enda at McAtamney Butchers** for the Annual Appeal.

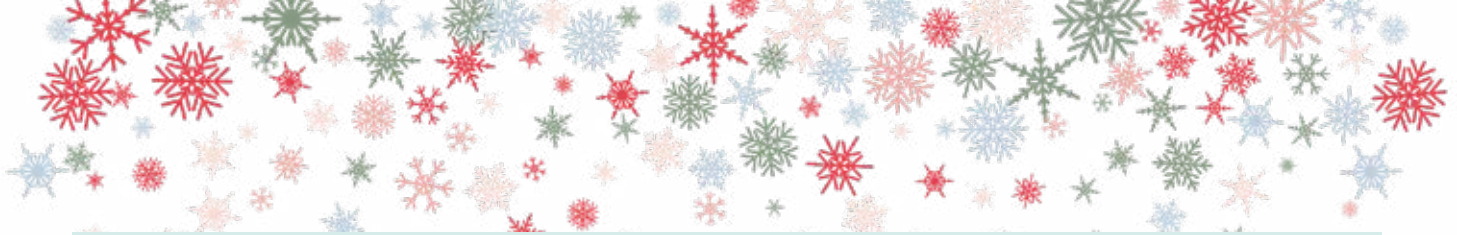


Thank you to **Carn Glen Credit Union!** **Chairman Eunan** is pictured presenting **Joanne Black** of Errigal SVP Conference with a donation for the Annual Appeal.



Thanks to **Rotary Club of Limavady** for the generous donation of £1,850 from the Club's annual Christmas Tree of Remembrance. Accepting the donation are SVP members **Mairead McNulty** and **Mary McCloskey**, from **Peter Jack**, President; and **Sam McCrea**, Appeals Co-Ordinator.





We are grateful for the continued support from McQuillan Companies for the Annual Appeal. **Niall McQuillan** is pictured presenting **Pauline Brown**, Regional Manager, SVP, with a generous donation for the Annual Appeal of £2,500.



The inaugural North West Charity Cup raised an incredible €5,335 for SVP in Derry - *thank you for your generosity!*

Thank You

SVP was one of the charities to benefit from fundraising by the **Sean Doran Boxing Club** with donations going to the SVP Annual Appeal.



SVP was one of four charities to benefit from The Light Still Shines Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity Church Lislimnaghan, Omagh. Pictured at the launch are **Mairead Taggart**, SVP Area President for Omagh, **Jacqueline McMenemy** and Rev **Canon Derek Quinn**.



Michael Gilfedder of SVP receives a wonderful donation of £10,000 from **Candida Brown** of Re-Gen to help those faced with impossible choices this Christmas.

ANNUAL APPEAL
DONATIONS
FROM AROUND
THE REGION



Thank you to the amazing team at **Eire Óg** who raised £1,460 from their annual coffee morning fundraiser for St Anthony Craigavon.



SVP was delighted to join a host of other charities and staff at **Specialist Group** to receive a very generous donation for the SVP Annual Appeal - *thank you!*

Thank you



St Colman Kilkeel is very grateful for generous donations from schools, local businesses and Kilkeel Credit Union.



Paul Casey from St Peter's Athletic Club presented Anita McGeown of St Anthony Craigavon with a generous donation of £2,100 following their sponsored event "Rock the Lough and Lakes 2025".



Thank you to **Woodvale Construction** for the generous support of the SVP Annual Appeal - we are very grateful for your donation of £2,000.



Thanks to the students and teachers of **Assumption Grammar School, Ballynahinch**, for raising funds for the 2025 SVP Annual Appeal.



Anita McGeown from St Anthony Craigavon is pictured with staff from **Craigavon Integrated College** receiving a lovely donation of £1,000 for the Annual Appeal.

**ANNUAL APPEAL
DONATIONS
FROM AROUND
THE REGION**



SVP representatives visited **Dominican College Fortwilliam, Belfast**, to collect a cheque for the Annual Appeal from funds raised by students - thank you for the generous donation!



SVP Regional Ambassador **Malachi Cush** visited **St Catherine's College, Armagh**, to collect an amazing donation of £4,500 on behalf of the SVP Annual Appeal.



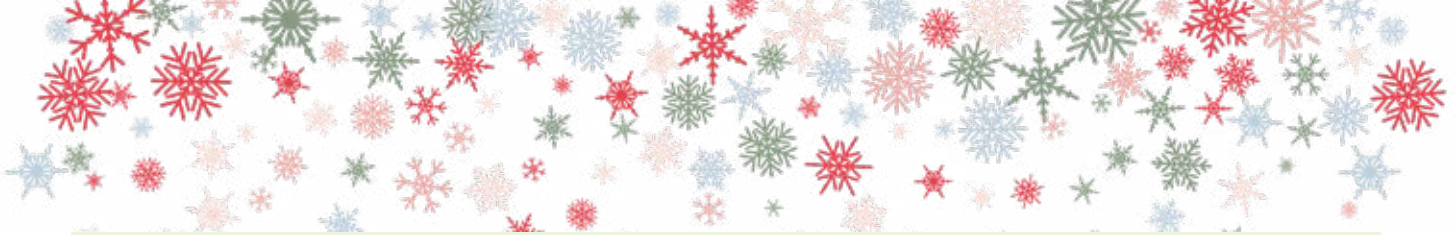
Big thanks to **St Patrick's Nursery and Primary School, The Meadow, Newry**, pupil **Caoimhe McLernon**, who sold accessories from hand crafted loom bands and donated £100 to Eithne Keenan of SVP.



A non-uniform day and weekly collections raised £4,000 for SVP - thank you to everyone involved in the fundraising efforts at **Dean Maguire College, Carrickmore**.



An amazing £4,036.46 was raised by students of **Loreto College, Coleraine**, for the Annual Appeal. Sharing the donation are **Martin McCallion** from **St John Coleraine** and **Anthony Fisher** from **St Malachy Coleraine**.



Amazing pupils at **Edmund Rice College, Glengormley**, raised £562 during the school's Christmas Jumper Day. The generous donation was very gratefully received by **Mary Waide**, National Vice President of SVP.



St Columbanus' College, Bangor, Lower Sixth students and teachers are pictured with **Sean Johnston** and **Eileen Thomson** of SVP in North Down and Ards presenting a cheque for £3,010 for the Annual Appeal. The funds were raised from a coffee morning, Christmas Quiz and non-uniform day.



Thank you to the students of **St Columba's College in Portaferry** for the generous donation for the SVP Annual Appeal.



**ANNUAL APPEAL
DONATIONS
FROM AROUND
THE REGION**



Thank you to everyone involved in raising £500 for the SVP Annual Appeal at **St Mary's High School, Newry!**



Thank you to the brilliant pupils of **St John's Primary School, Coleraine**, who presented **Martin and Ellen Ann McCallion** of **St John Coleraine** with a donation for £200.



We're very grateful for the donation of £200 for the SVP Annual Appeal from students of **St Fanchea's College, Enniskillen**.

Thank you to **Lissan Primary School** in Cookstown for the amazing donation of £250 from the Christmas Jumper Day.



We are delighted to receive £150 for the SVP Annual Appeal from pupils of **St Michael's Primary School, Finnis** - you are very kind!



Thank You



John McGeown and Sheila McSweeney were presented with a donation of £284.30 from St Mary's Primary School, Rathfriland, by the head boy in P7 following the school's Christmas Jumper Day.



Thank you also to the following schools for their generous donations for the SVP Annual Appeal and for participating in our Christmas Jumper Day campaign:

St Joseph's Primary School, Lisburn
St Kevin's Primary School, Belfast
St Mary's Primary School, Aughnacloy
St Mary's Primary School, Melmound Road, Strabane
St Theresa's Primary School, Sion Mills

Thank you also to the following donors for their generous donations for the SVP Annual Appeal:

Chartered
Accountants
Ireland

City of Derry
AIRPORT

THE IRELAND
FUNDS

50
YEARS

Mackle
FOOD COMPANY

mitchell
Property Management

MOVIE
HOUSE

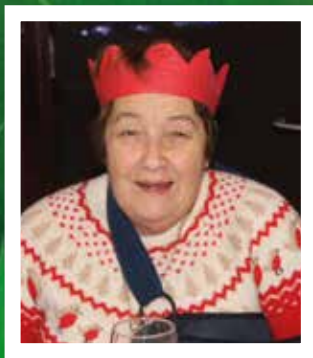


Members Celebrate Christmas

St Joseph Crossgar and Kilmore



St Patrick Downpatrick



Members Celebrate Christmas

St Patrick Portrush and St Mary Portstewart

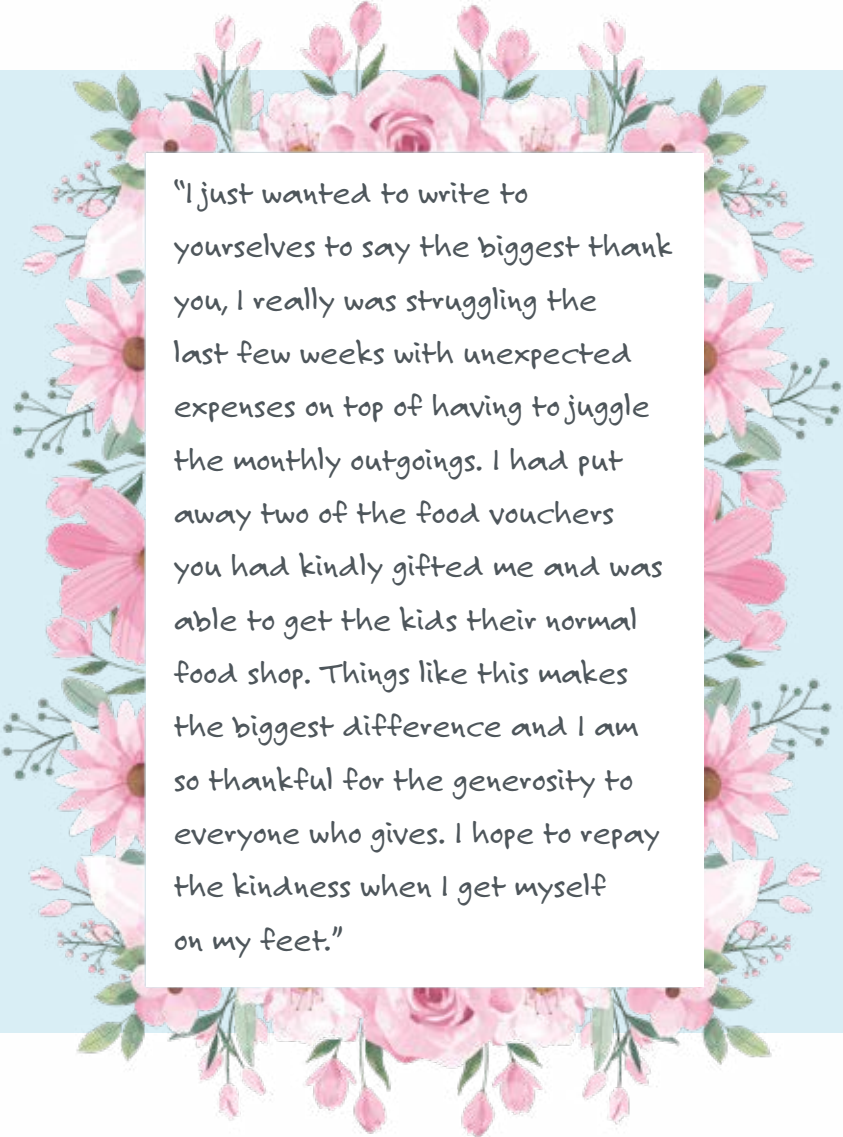


St Bernadette Belfast



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

The Difference SVP Makes



"I just wanted to write to yourselves to say the biggest thank you, I really was struggling the last few weeks with unexpected expenses on top of having to juggle the monthly outgoings. I had put away two of the food vouchers you had kindly gifted me and was able to get the kids their normal food shop. Things like this makes the biggest difference and I am so thankful for the generosity to everyone who gives. I hope to repay the kindness when I get myself on my feet."

"I want to thank you both from the bottom of my heart. The kindness and generosity you've shown me has gone far beyond anything I could have imagined. Your help with heating oil and financial support has not only lifted a huge weight off my shoulders, but it is also helping me take care of my two little ones. Knowing they will be warm and cared for means more to me than words can say.

Asking for help is never easy, and when you came to me, I was very emotional, I'm sorry you both had to witness that. But you treated me with such compassion and dignity that I felt supported instead of ashamed. That is a gift I will never forget.

Please know that what you've done has made a real difference in our lives. From my children and me, thank you so very much.

When my time comes and I am in a better position, I will return this kindness by helping others in need, just as you have helped me.

There are just not enough words to express my thanks to you both."



How You Can Help SVP Make a Difference

Getting Involved with SVP ...Volunteer With Us

Individuals, schools and corporates can make a difference through volunteering.

By becoming an SVP member of your local Conference, you can make a difference by visiting people in their homes, offering support and friendship.

There are lots of ways for schools to get involved.

For example, your class can join in festive fun with a Christmas Jumper Day, host a non-uniform day, organise a coffee morning, or include some exercise with a sponsored walk or fun run in spring/summer!

SVP also encourages professionals with IT skills to join and assist with behind the scenes volunteering roles for example in admin and finance.

There are unique corporate-sponsored volunteering opportunities in our shops and corporate partners can contribute their expertise in various ways including project management, IT and finance.

Corporate Partnerships providing opportunities to choose SVP as your Charity of the Year exist in the heart of local communities throughout the Northern Region.



Donate To Us

There are a number of ways that individuals and organisations can donate to SVP.

Individuals can organise a fundraising event, set a challenge, participate in a marathon, sea swim, sponsored walk or skydive, in celebration of a life milestone.

Making a donation in memory of a loved one, to remember those we have lost is a heartbreaking yet heartwarming way of honouring their memory.

For an A to Z list of fundraising ideas, visit our website at www.svp.ie



With a gift in your Will to the Society of St Vincent de Paul you will help build a better future for people in need and create lasting solutions to tackle poverty.

Putting your 'will' power to good work.

A practical direct approach to dealing with poverty.

Giving time, talents and resources to help those in need.

If you would like to make a donation, please call tel **028 9075 0161**

or visit our website at **www.svp.ie**



Retail

Our retail charity shops are an integral part of the service and work of The Society of St Vincent de Paul. They provide a valuable resource in terms of affordable goods, volunteer opportunities, community support and valuable funds that support Home Visitation in Conferences.

2025 was a year of achievement and change. Prior to the election of a new Regional President, at which point all officers must stand down with the outgoing President, the Regional Retail Committee carried out a review of its activities and achievements over the previous three-year term. This review demonstrated how active the Regional Retail Committee had been and the positive changes that have been implemented during that period.

The Committee engaged in extensive work reviewing recycling operations and establishing criteria for the appointment of ethical recycling companies. The number of clothing banks in the Region was assessed, and the total was reduced to necessary banks only, thus saving time and money for shops. CCTV was installed in all shops. We considered van ownership and use in the Region and established a more efficient number of vans shared by shops. Access NI was introduced for employed drivers, and a Volunteer Drivers declaration was introduced, regarding governance, health and safety, and guidelines for lifting.

We supported the implementation of employed managers in every shop, there now remain two volunteer led shops.

Guidance on governance regarding use, access and security of shop laptops was circulated to all shops and local shop committees. We produced an A5 booklet for all shop committees on guidance based on RACI principles.



As a charity, we are bound to ensure we make best and appropriate use of charitable funds and this requires an ongoing review of the viability and performance of shops.

In 2026 the Regional Retail Committee is facing the challenge of implementing the **ONE MODEL** introduced by National Retail Committee. The overall objectives are consistent governance across all shops, central oversight of Activities, Performance and Finance, ensuring excess funds are transferred to Area / Regional Sharing Funds, and that adequate funds are available for shop maintenance, development and recruitment and equity in availability of funds for Conferences. The One Model will bring about some changes in monitoring and reporting systems which should ease the amount of work required by Members in overseeing the shops and allow for comprehensive reports.

Anne McLarnon is Chair of the Regional Retail Committee and this year the Committee Members are **Bernie Mc Niece**, Armagh; **Anne Marie Hughes**, Omagh; **Martha Smyth**, Enniskillen; and **Stephen Carlin**, Strabane. **Patrick Friel**, Regional Treasurer; and **Pauline Brown**, Regional Manager; attend our meetings.

The work of the Regional Retail Committee is not carried out in isolation, there is extensive cooperation and support among Members, Areas, Council, shops and staff, and particularly the Regional Retail Manager.

We appreciate and thank all those who work with us and look forward to the coming year.

National President Visits Vincent's

Vincent's teams on Antrim Road and Springfield Road were delighted to welcome newly elected **National President, Teresa Ryan**, on her visit to the Northern Region.



Antrim Road



Springfield Road



Share the Love Campaign

'Share the Love' launched in February 2025 encouraging the public to share sustainably with Vincent's.

'Share the Love' at Vincent's encourages people to donate clean, wearable and undamaged garments and items meaning shoppers can be assured that they can continue to purchase quality items that they have come to expect and love from their local Vincent's.

Anne McLarnon, SVP board member and Chair of the Northern Region Retail Committee, said:

"We are launching our 'Share the Love' campaign during the month of love as we believe that we have a responsibility to those who love donating to our shops as well as those who love treating themselves in our Vincent's shops now and for the future."

Vincent's is committed to fostering a sustainable environment and local shops are incredibly grateful for the generosity of those who 'Share the Love' by donating items that they once loved.



The support of donors and shoppers ensures that Vincent's can continue to be relevant and serve local communities while promoting recycling and reducing waste.

Anne added: "Our staff and volunteers love receiving preloved items but we would appeal to anyone considering their donations to take a moment before filling their 'charity shop donation bag' to respect the time and effort of our dedicated volunteers and staff, by donating only those items which they used to love and which are clean, in good, reusable condition, and safe for use. We love receiving quality items that we know will love their new home.

"Unfortunately, we are unable to accept items that are unwearable or broken. Additionally, for safety reasons, we cannot accept electrical goods or personal safety items such as car seats and helmets. Disposing of unsuitable items places an unnecessary financial burden on our charity - resources that could otherwise go toward helping those who need our help the most.

"By donating responsibly, the public is helping us to continue our work while sending a powerful message of care - for both the local community and the environment."



Repair Week

Vincent's fully embraced the inaugural Repair Week, bringing the community together to celebrate sustainability and the power of repair!

Antrim Road, Belfast, and Portadown Vincent's served tea and coffee while encouraging customers to get involved and rethink how they view preloved items.

In addition, the stores carefully set aside donated items that needed a little TLC, using them as real-life examples to demonstrate just how much can be saved, restored, and given a new lease of life.



Whether it's a torn garment, or a missing button, this initiative showcases the simple yet impactful ways we can extend the life of our belongings and reduce waste.

NIRN (Northern Ireland Reuse Network) Repair Week NI ran from 3 to 9 March 2025 and was funded by DAERA.

Newcastle Comes First!

The creative spirit and community pride of Newcastle took centre stage with Vincent's winning first place in the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce 'Dark Night of the Scarecrow' competition.



Vincent's scarecrow captured the essence of autumn and the judges' hearts to secure the coveted top spot, with the Chamber stating that the creativity and effort on display around the town as being 'fantastic'.

The winning creation, whilst some might say was both creepy and clever, was designed and brought to life by one of the store's talented sales assistants. The scarecrow has become a cheerful talking point for customers and passers-by alike, greeting visitors with a spooky charm at the store's entrance.

Anne McLarnon, Chair of Vincent's Regional Retail Committee, expressed her delight at the news. Anne said:

"We are absolutely thrilled that our Newcastle Vincent's store has won first place in the Chamber of Commerce Scarecrow Competition! This achievement reflects the creativity, local engagement, community spirit and teamwork that define our wonderful staff and volunteers.

"The scarecrow competition was such a fun and imaginative project for this autumn season and it's great to see that effort recognised by the wider community. I'm so proud of the team, especially our sales assistant who came up with this brilliant design. The scarecrows have really brought a touch of personality and warmth to the town.

"This kind of initiative really shows what makes Newcastle special. We're so grateful to the Chamber for organising such a positive and collaborative event."

Hallowe'en Win for Derry!

Congratulations to the team in Derry on winning the Hallowe'en Window Display competition in the city world famous for its Hallowe'en celebrations!



Getting Creative with Displays

Dungiven Vincent's came alive with a vivid and innovative Hygge display.



Mend at The MAC

Funded by NIRN, Vincent's Antrim Road attended the 'Mend at The MAC' event to raise awareness of sustainable fashion. The team did an outstanding job of selling stock and promoting volunteering opportunities with Vincent's.



Vincent's Volunteers Celebrate Volunteers' Week

The team in Tullygally Vincent's got together to enjoy some treats in celebration of Volunteers' Week!



Vincent's in Enniskillen celebrated Volunteers' Week with treats for the team!



Staff from Vincent's in Kircubbin took a well earned coffee break to celebrate Volunteers' Week on the Ards Peninsula!



Vincent's Volunteer Retires at 96 Years Young!

Lurgan lady Phyllis McIlduff hung up her Vincent's apron at 96 years young, having volunteered with St Vincent de Paul for 36 years.



Phyllis added:

"It got me out of the house after my husband died, kept me busy and I just loved talking to people."

As well as volunteering in the Lurgan shop, Phyllis made her modelling debut for SVP at the Regional Fashion Show in 2018. She modelled at fashion shows in Cookstown and Dublin and said that the experience was great fun.

"I did what I could to help out. Whether that was in Vincent's, in the childcare centre, modelling. I just wanted to help in any way that I could", she said.

Mary Waide, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, said:

"On behalf of The Society of St Vincent de Paul I would like to congratulate Phyllis on her dedicated service to the Society and to her committed volunteering in Vincent's Lurgan. We are indebted to her selflessness and the impact that she has made on the volunteers, staff and people of Lurgan. In this Volunteers' Week we would express our thanks to Phyllis and wish her well on her retirement."

Phyllis was recognised by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, at a Civic Reception and with the award of 'Volunteer of the Year' at Vincent's Retail Conference.



Everyone at SVP wishes her a long and happy retirement.



The Wonder of Christmas at Vincent's

Shops across the Region were transformed into winter wonderlands for the festive season.

Antrim Road



Armagh



Dungiven

Killyclogher



Fond Farewell

We were sad to say 'goodbye' to **Mary Dempster** who has been the manager of Vincent's in Ballymena for 16 years. We wish her well for the future.



Volunteering at Vincent's

If you are passionate about helping in your local community and love charity shopping, you could join our volunteers in your local Vincent's!

For more information on volunteering opportunities, call into your local Vincent's today or visit:

www.svp.ie/what-we-do/shops

Your Local Vincent's

Armagh

46/48 Scotch Street, Armagh, BT61 7DF
T: 028 3778 8040
E: armagh.vincents@svpni.co.uk

Ballymena

11 Cushendall Road, Ballymena,
BT43 6HA
T: 028 2564 4122
E: ballymena.vincents@svpni.co.uk

Banbridge

5 Jingers Court, Banbridge, BT32 3YJ
T: 07547 212810
E: banbridge.vincents@svpni.co.uk

Belfast

196/200 Antrim Road, BT15 2AJ
T: 028 9075 2648
E: antrimrd.vincents@svpni.co.uk

Unit W3, Dairy Farm Centre,
Stewartstown Road, Dunmurry,
BT17 0AW

T: 028 9060 4372
E: dunmurry.vincents@svpni.co.uk

98 Springfield Road, Belfast,
BT12 7AH

T: 028 9090 7696
E: springfieldrd.vincents@svpni.co.uk

Cookstown

35 Loy Street, Cookstown,
BT80 8PZ
T: 028 8676 9400
E: cookstown.vincents@svpni.co.uk

Cushendall

7 Dalriada Avenue, Cushendall, BT44 0NB
T: 028 9443 8523
E: cushendall.vincents@svpni.co.uk

Derry

34 William Street, Derry, BT48 6ET
T: 028 7126 8325
E: williamstderry.vincents@svpni.co.uk

Downpatrick

Unit 1, Ballymote Centre,
40 Killough Road, Downpatrick, BT30 6PY
T: 028 4461 3717
E: ballymotedownpatrick.vincents@svpni.co.uk

14 Irish Street, Downpatrick, BT30 6BP
T: 028 4461 4194
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Dungiven

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T: 028 7774 0714
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Enniskillen

24 Church Street, Enniskillen, BT74 7EJ
T: 028 6632 9893
E: enniskillen.vincents@svpni.co.uk

Keady

39 Kinelowen Street, Keady, BT60 3ST
T: 028 3778 8010
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Killiclogher

72 Circular Road, Omagh, BT79 7HA
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Kilrea

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Kircubbin

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Lisnaskea

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T: 028 6772 1906

Lurgan

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T: 028 3832 5725
E: lurgan.vincents@svpni.co.uk

Magherafelt

12 King Street, Magherafelt, BT45 6AR
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76 Main Street, Newcastle, BT33 0AD
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Newry

40a Bridge Street, Newry, BT35 8AF
T: 028 3026 8185
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30 Mill Street, Newry, BT34 1EY
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43 Castle Street, Omagh, BT78 1DD
T: 028 8225 2000
E: omagh.vincents@svpni.co.uk

Portadown

Unit 2/3 Mayfair Business Centre,
193/205 Garvaghy Road, Portadown,
BT62 1EH
T: 028 3839 3898
E: portadown.vincents@svpni.co.uk

Strabane

18 Barrack Street, Strabane, BT82 8HG
T: 028 7188 4479
E: strabane.vincents@svpni.co.uk

Tullygally

Unit 3/4 Tullygally Shopping Centre,
Craigavon, BT65 5AU
T: 028 3834 1513
E: tullygally.vincents@svpni.co.uk



IN MEMORIAM



James Doherty
St Patrick Ballymoney
Died 7 May 2025

James became a member of St Vincent de Paul in 1980 and retired in 2018 having devoted 38 years' service.



Raymond French
St Mary Portstewart
Died 1 August 2025

Raymond had received his medal for 60 years' service to St Vincent de Paul and was still attending some meetings until his death.



Brenda Dynes
St Patrick Portaferry
Died 24 October 2025

It is with deep respect and heartfelt gratitude that we remember Brenda Dynes, a devoted nurse and cherished member of St Vincent de Paul.

For many years she offered her professional expertise, understanding, compassion and support to all those she cared for. Later in her contribution to SVP she carried this wisdom, calm strength and support to her Vincentian brothers and sisters.

We celebrate a life well lived, dedicated to service and compassion and to making the world a better place.

She is greatly missed by the Dynes family and the Conference members of St Patrick Portaferry.
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Fr Eugene Hasson
Died 12 January 2026

Fr Eugene Hasson is pictured with some members of St Columba Omagh before his sad passing.

It is with great sadness that St Columba Conference Omagh announces the death of our Spiritual Director Fr Eugene Hasson PP after a short illness. Fr Eugene arrived in Drumragh Parish in 2016 and became our Spiritual Director shortly afterwards. Although he had a very heavy workload he made every effort to attend our meetings.

He celebrated Mass on a number of occasions in our Conference room, especially for our deceased members. Always approachable and supportive in our endeavours, we remain grateful for his presence over the years.
May He Rest in Peace.



Kevin Holland St Patrick Saul
Died 2 January 2026

Former Conference President of Saul, Kevin was a member of St Vincent de Paul since 2010. He was dedicated to the Society and his family requested donations to SVP in lieu of flowers when he passed away.

IN MEMORIAM



Cormac McKervey
St Joseph Ederney
Died 12 January 2026

The members of the Conference and the wider SVP community in Co Fermanagh mourn the loss of Cormac McKervey, a dear friend and colleague. Upon his retirement as a vet in the early 2000's, Cormac became a devoted member of St Joseph Ederney for over 20 years and he also volunteered in Vincent's Enniskillen, each week, during this time.

Cormac, and his wife Mac, travelled many times on pilgrimage to Medjugorje from the mid 1980s until 2019 and they became involved in humanitarian work in war-torn Bosnia over many years. Cormac was devoted to his family throughout his very happy life. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Mac, his five children, 13 grandchildren and wider family circle.

Throughout his life, he was an active member of his community and a man of prayer and deep faith. He was an inspiration to us all and will be dearly missed.

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Brendan Mulholland
St Joseph and St Peter The Rock
Stoneyford
Died 31 January 2025

Brendan was a devoted and long serving member of St Vincent de Paul for over 50 years. In 2024, St Joseph Hannahstown and St Peter The Rock Conferences amalgamated to form a single SVP Conference, and Brendan continued to serve the newly united community with the same tireless commitment that had defined his life's work.

He dedicated himself wholeheartedly to the people of St Peter and St Joseph, remaining active until only weeks before his passing. His deep faith and unwavering devotion to St Peter's Church were evident in all he did.

Brendan is deeply missed by the parish of St Peter The Rock and the wider community who held him in such high regard.



Eileen Mulvenna
St James Whiteabbey
Died 11 January 2026

Eileen joined St Vincent de Paul in 1997 and served with dedication and commitment until she retired in 2021.

Eileen had been a nurse in her professional career and brought in abundance all her qualities of compassion and kindness to the many visitations she made over the years. Eileen was particularly impressive in her visits to care homes in our area as she had spent some of the latter years of her nursing profession in this field.

We missed Eileen very much when she retired and are saddened by her death. **Rest in peace Eileen.**

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Kieran Stewart
Vincent's Volunteer
Died 14 December 2025

Kieran was a much-valued member of both the Vincent's Springfield Road and Antrim Road shops for a number of years.

He spent hours helping organise the book departments and helped numerous customers find that perfect read. Kieran always had time for a chat with everyone and regularly had both customers and team members in fits of giggles with his fantastic sense of humour.

Kieran will be greatly missed by everyone who ever had the pleasure of knowing him.

Let perpetual light shine upon them. May they all rest in peace, in the gentle, loving arms of God.



Society of St Vincent de Paul

Northern Region 17 Area Councils 154 Conferences



Derry City

Our Lady of Lourdes Steelstown
Holy Family Galliagh
St Columba
St Eugene
Good Shepherd Gobnascale
St Mary Creggan
St Francis of Assisi Ballymagroarty
St Eithne
St Patrick Carnhill
St Canice
St John Waterside

North Derry

St Joseph Banagher
St Patrick Claudy
St Canice Limavady
St Patrick Dungiven
St Anthony Mullabuoy
St Aidan Magilligan
St Dismas Prison

North Antrim & North East Derry

Errigal
St John Coleraine
St Malachy Coleraine
St Mary Portstewart
St Patrick Ballymoney
St Patrick Portrush
St Brigid Ballycastle
St Mary & St Columba Rasharkin
Sacred Heart Cloughmills
St Mary & St Patrick Cushendall

Strabane

St Mary & St Joseph Strabane
St Patrick Leckpatrick
St Patrick Castleterg

Mid Ulster

St Lurach Maghera
St Columba Ballinascreen
St Patrick Magherafelt
Immaculate Conception Cookstown
St Mary Bellaghy
St Anne Kilrea
St John Granaghan
St Oliver Plunkett Greenlough & Clady
St Brigid Lavey

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Mid Antrim

St Mary Ahoghill
St Comgall Antrim
St Joseph Antrim
Blessed Virgin Ballymena
St Mary Portglenone
St Mary Glenravel
St Joseph Glenavy
St MacNissi Randalstown
St James Aldergrove
St Vincent de Paul Toome & Duneane
Sacred Heart & Holy Family Ballyclare
St Comgall Larne

Omagh

St Columba Omagh
St Malachy Beragh
Christ the King Strathroy
St Davog Dromore
Visitation Termonmaguirc
St Patrick Drumquin
St Mary Killyclogher
St Lawrence Fintona

Fermanagh

Blessed Virgin Enniskillen
St Molaise Irvinestown
Immaculate Conception Newtownbutler
Holy Cross Lisnaskea
St Joseph Ederney
St Ninnidh Derrylin
St Mary Tempo
St Nailles Kinawley

East Tyrone

Holy Family Coalisland
St Patrick Dungannon
St Mary Stewartstown
St Bridget Clonoe
St John Moy
St Ciaran Ballygawley

Armagh & Craigavon

St Patrick Portadown
Holy Family Seagoe
St Peter & St Paul Lurgan
St Mary Tullysaran
St Patrick Armagh
St John XXIII Magheralin
St Joseph Prison
St John Paul II Whitecross
St Anthony Craigavon
St Patrick Banbridge
St Patrick Aghagallon
St Colman Dromore
St Patrick Keady

Newry & Mourne

St Brigid Newry
St Joseph Newry
Sacred Heart Cloghogue
St John Hilltown
St Bronagh Rostrevor
St Patrick Warrenpoint
St Colman Kilkeel
St Benedict Newtownhamilton
St Mary Burren
St Francis of Assisi Crossmaglen

Kilmegan

St Malachy Castlewellan
Sacred Heart Dundrum
St Malachy Kilcoo
St Patrick Ballynahinch
Christ the King Drumaness
Immaculate Conception Newcastle
St Patrick Leitrim
St Michael Finnis

East Down

St Nicholas Ardglass
St Joseph Killough & Bright
St Patrick Saul
St Mochai Saintfield
Stella Maris Strangford
St Joseph Crossgar & Kilmore
St Patrick Downpatrick

North Down & Ards

St Comgall Bangor
St Patrick Newtownards
St Patrick Portaferry
St Bernard Clairvaux Kircubbin
Most Holy Redeemer Ballyholme
St Colmcille Holywood

North Belfast

St Mary Whitehouse
St James Whiteabbey
St Gerard & St Mary Greencastle
Holy Cross
Sacred Heart
Holy Family
St Patrick
Church of the Resurrection
St Colman Greenisland
St Therese Somerton Road
St Mary on the Hill Carnmoney
Our Lady of Lourdes Whitehead

South & East Belfast

St Brigid
St Malachy
Holy Rosary
St Bernadette
St Colmcille Ballyhackamore
Immaculate Heart of Mary Drumbo
St Matthew

West Belfast

Corpus Christi
St Luke Twinbrook
St Anne Dunmurry
St Patrick Lisburn
St Patrick Derriaghay
St Michael
Most Holy Redeemer & St Peter
St Paul
St Teresa
St John
Church of the Nativity Poleglass
Our Lady Queen of Peace Kilwee
Christ the Redeemer
St Peter the Rock Stoneyford
St Agnes
St Pio Prison
St Oliver Plunkett



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