

SHREWSBURY DIOCESE News

Turning Concern into Action

Issue 13 | Autumn 2020



St Mary's Catholic Primary School Home School Parish Links in Middlewich, Cheshire

A faith that is lived, a faith that is shared and a faith that is celebrated are the foundations of our home, school and parish links. This is encapsulated in the 'I Believe' banner designed, created and made by hand by Helen Armsden, one of our parishioners and a foundation governor here at St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Middlewich. It has pride of place on our ambo in our school chapel which is used regularly by staff, parents and of course pupils.

Our Mini Vinnies use this amazing resource to lead prayer groups focussing on one block or panel of the banner at a time - talking about the sacraments, the teachings of Jesus and the example of a life lived in service of others following in Jesus' footsteps.



The banner (pictured right) consists of a series of twenty-six building blocks and a central panel that contain pictures, signs and symbols that help the children to grasp the rich tapestry of our faith and they depict the Good News that a life lived with Christ at our centre is the pathway to eternal life with the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are very grateful for the gift of this amazing resource.

The Team have specially designed jumpers in the colour of their choice. This year's Mini Vinnie group is pictured below. Their prayer groups are so popular that even Charlie, our Pet Therapy Dog attends!



MINI VINNIES

SAVE THE DATE
Mass for Mini Vinnies
ST. COLUMBA'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH
CHESTER CH2 1SA

Rescheduled to
15th JUNE 2021

The Right Reverend Mark Davies
Bishop of Shrewsbury to officiate.

More details to follow

*Dear St Vincent,
Servant of the poor,
Help us to follow your example
to help those who are
lonely, hungry or troubled.
Help us to keep our promise to care
by treating others as we would
want them to treat us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord
Amen*





St Vincent's Trafford

"21st Century Disciples"

THE MINI VINNIES
 WOULD LIKE TO INVITE
PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS
 TO JOIN THEM IN
A REFLECTION
 AT 10AM FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER
 FOLLOWED BY A VIRTUAL
MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

ZOOM:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76676257266?pwd=eWVlbnR0eU1zN3ErWXJlVHFaFVJqUT09>
 Meeting ID: 766 7625 7266 Passcode: WBEOGw

DONATE:
<https://donation.macmillan.org.uk/wbcm/one-off>

GRAB A COFFEE & CAKE OR JOIN US IN THE BAKE

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT



Don't let what you can't do stop you from doing what you can do.

Mini Vinnies at St Vincent's Catholic Primary school in Altrincham, hosted a Reflection via zoom, on Friday 25th September, for all grandparents, parents and the whole school to celebrate 'Little way week', followed by a fundraising 'bake off' by the pastoral team to raise money for Macmillan cancer support.

All the Mini Vinnies (from Year 1 to Year 6) participated.

What a wonderful way to bring the community together again under current circumstances.



Can We Be "Digital Disciples?"

The first Millennial saint: British computer whiz kid Carlo Acutis who died aged 15 moves a step towards sainthood as he is beatified on 10th October 2020 by the Catholic Church in Assisi where he asked to be buried.

Pope Francis has said, "Carlo Acutis is a powerful example for today's young people."

Carlo, who has been nicknamed the 'Patron Saint of the Internet', came to the attention of the Vatican aged 11 when he used his IT skills to program websites documenting Eucharistic miracles and apparitions of Our Lady.

Carlo was a popular boy, a natural jokester who enjoyed making his classmates and teachers laugh. He loved playing soccer, video games, and had a sweet tooth. Carlo could not say "no" to Nutella or to ice cream.

"Being originals and not photocopies."

He was known for defending children at school who got picked on, especially disabled children. When a friend's parents were getting a divorce, Carlo made a special effort to include his friend in the Acutis family life.

Carlo's motto reflects the life of a normal teenager who strived to be the best version of himself, living the ordinary in an extraordinary way. He used his first savings to buy a sleeping bag for a homeless man he often saw on the way to Mass. He could have bought himself another video game for his game console collection. Instead, he chose to be generous. This was not an isolated instance. His funeral was packed with many of the city's poor residents that Carlo had helped, demonstrating that the generosity he had extended to the homeless man on his way to Mass had been offered to many other people as well.

You can learn more about this amazing young man, Blessed Carlo Acutis (Patron of the Internet) on youtube.com.

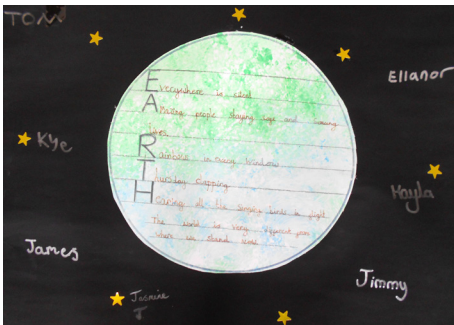
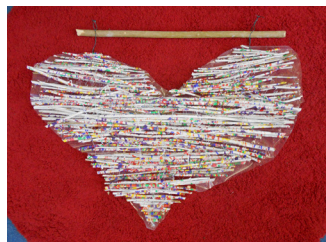




Love and Hope at St Wilfrid's, Northwich

Mini Vinnie Coordinator, Pauline O'Hara wanted to record some of the many activities that have taken place during the lockdown at St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School in Northwich.

These include a photograph of the school entrance applauding the NHS, a poem created by the children in school, silk artwork and a rainbow heart of love and hope. The children also made cards for the elderly and vulnerable parishioners.



Shrewsbury Cathedral School Value the Mini Vinnie Programme

Thank you to Headteacher Mr Graeme Hawes at Shrewsbury Cathedral Catholic Primary School and Nursery in Shrewsbury.

Mr Hawes explained the reason for his report in these words, "I wanted to do this to value the Mini Vinnies' contribution to the Catholic Ethos of our / all schools." Here is his report:

The unprecedented situation caused by the global COVID-19 virus has affected every part of the school including our work with the Mini Vinnies and with the year 6 pupils and their work on the Faith in Action award.

During the lockdown and during the current phased return to school our staff have been tremendous in ensuring that the school was able to open safely, following all safety guidelines, while still maintaining our family ethos. As a school during this period we have worked hard to think about our school family and the wider community.

We always pride ourselves in putting others' needs in front of our own and trying to live our motto 'High Expectation – No Excuses' and I am proud to share some of the things we have done to improve a small part of our communities' lives:

- **We have provided food parcels to families in need** in conjunction with our local Food Hub and neighbour school Martin Wilson on a weekly basis.
- **The local SVP helped to support the school by providing funds to assist families with tablets** to ensure they were able to access home learning.
- **We created artwork to display at the front of the school** to show solidarity with the Key Workers and members of our community.
- **We have been providing weekly phone calls to all families** the school identified as vulnerable.
- Each Thursday during the lockdown **we held a collective worship on YouTube.**
- **Our Caritas Family Support Worker has been invaluable in supporting families** with their everyday needs.
- **Our Admin team were invaluable in organising the FSM vouchers** and this meant they would be doing this during the night when the system was quieter.

Gifts for families in crisis

St Joseph's Cheshire



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School's Mini Vinnies donate their gifts for families in crisis to Daniel Pendlebury and Lee Mackenzie from Helping Hands, Northwich.

Mini Vinnies planned, organised and ran a cake sale which raised over £112. They bought foods and toiletries for the homeless with the money.

St Benedict's Handforth Keep smiling!

Hello Mini Vinnies at St Benedict's. Thank you for your smiles, they cheer us all up! Thank you for sharing just like this.



Smiling is infectious,
you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin
When he smiled I realized
I'd passed it on to him .

I thought about that smile
then I realized its worth,
A single smile,
just like mine
could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected
Let's start an epidemic quick,
and get the world infected!

- Russell H. Conwell



Let us keep talking to support each other!

Love and prayers from your Shrewsbury
SVP Young Vincentian Development Team

*"Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.
Best wishes and prayers to you all."*

Headteacher - St. Raphael's Catholic Primary School, Stalybridge

*"Thank you so very much. Best wishes
from all of us at St Mary's in Telford."*

Headteacher – St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Madeley, Shropshire

*"Thank you for all that you do for
Mini Vinnies. Take care."*

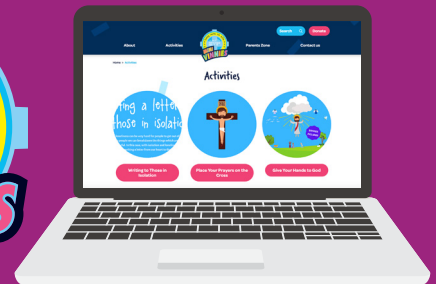
MV Coordinator – St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary, Northwich

"Take care, stay safe and God Bless."

Chair of Governors / MV Coordinator – St Patrick's Catholic Primary, Shropshire

We have found strength from your good wishes – Thank you!

Mini Vinnie Resources are available to support you
on the SVP MV Microsite. Well worth a visit!



www.svp.org.uk/mini-vinnies/activities

There are resources and worksheets for you to work through with your groups and there will be more to come. Even if your group is unable to meet these can be completed at home with parents.

PLEASE learn the Mini Vinnie song. It is on the website. We WILL be singing this song at our special Mass on 15th June. Let us raise the roof!

We Are God's Hands

*Light looked down and saw darkness
everywhere.*

Light said, "I will go there."

Peace looked down and saw war and misery

Peace said, "I will go there."

Love looked down and saw hatred everywhere

Love said, "I will go there."

God looked down and saw you and me.

*He saw the homeless, the lonely, the
frightened, the hungry, the poor.*

God said, "I will go there."

Contact us if we can support in any way - e.g. if you want to chat by telephone or zoom or need resources:

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We pray for a healthy 2021 and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.