

THE



SUMMER/AUTUMN 2022

BULLETIN

MAGAZINE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

**PREVENTION
IS BETTER
THAN A CURE**
WHEN IT COMES TO
TACKLING HOMELESSNESS
IN IRELAND

**NATIONAL
RETAIL**
CONFERENCE &
AWARDS 2022

**CONFERENCE
FUNDRAISING**
ON THE SVP WEBSITE



The Voice of Social Justice in Ireland



**“A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions,
and the roots spring up and make new trees.”
- Amelia Earhart**



This magazine is named in honour of the principal founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Frederic Ozanam

THE IRISH SVP OZANAM BULLETIN

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ADVERTISING RATES ON
REQUEST TO THE EDITOR

RELEVANT ARTICLES ARE
WELCOME. SEND TO THE EDITOR.

Returning to our core work of visitation with resilience

In our last edition, we mentioned how we in the Society planned to return to our core work of visitation rejuvenated, following the tiredness, exhaustion and challenges everyone faced during the previous two years.

Just when we thought we were getting a reprise, time to catch our breaths; we heard of the war in Ukraine and the mass fleeing of people for survival. Yet again, the Irish people, and the world, stood in solidarity as one to help one another.

For me personally, people's resilience never ceases to amaze me, but what exactly does being resilient mean? One description is that "resilience is the ability to withstand adversity and bounce back from difficult life events." However, we must bear in mind that being resilient doesn't mean that people don't experience stress, emotional upheaval, and suffering.

The Society has survived famine, war, and economic crises, and there will always be something which

requires us to stretch out that hand of friendship and help where we can. We can pray that someday there will be no suffering or a need for organisations like SVP, but for now, we must drive forward with resilience.




In a recent letter from our National President, Rose McGowan, she spoke about the uncertain times we all face due to the increased cost of living that is hitting households in so many different ways, be that through a lack of resources to purchase food, the skyrocketing increases in energy prices, transport, the housing crisis, and so much more. Rose and the National Management Council's desire is for us all to support one another. As she so eloquently put it,

"Our greatest support is to one another, but in these times, it is important that you and your Conference know you have our support."

In June our Vincent's shops hold a national retail day in Derry where the work of our retail staff and volunteers in interacting with their local community and providing a vital service was recognised and honoured. More recently, a few of their shops opened during special hours with the support of the Irish Red Cross to specifically support some of the Ukrainian community, demonstrating solidarity and showing how much we acknowledge their suffering and care for them.

It is always important that we demonstrate and live our lives through caring and displaying solidarity for all, irrespective of skin colour, place of birth, accent, or religion. After all, that tear of sadness we witness that falls from a person's eye is exactly the same tear you or I might shed at some stage in our lives.

So as servants of those most in need, our work is never done, and we should perform this with pride, selflessness, love, and compassion and from a place where we see everyone as an equal and without judgement.

-  SVPireland
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-  Saint Vincent de Paul Ireland



Expect to witness more tears as we approach the winter months

By Rose McGowan
SVP National President

In the editorial to this issue of The Bulletin you will read that *"the tear of sadness we witness that falls from a person's eye is exactly the same tear you or I might shed at some stage in our lives."*

Unfortunately we should expect to witness many more tears as we approach the coming winter.

For weeks now we have seen and heard wall-to-wall media coverage about the increases in the cost-of-living facing thousands of families. Energy and food prices are soaring and we are seeing rents rise well beyond what people can afford. Back-to-School and other increasing costs across the board have put pressure on many families, but particularly those in low-income households.

We in the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul see the impact every day through the volume of people contacting us seeking help. Last year we saw a record 191,000 calls come into our offices and this year to date there have been over 110,000.

Right now too many people in Ireland live in poverty and many more risk falling into the poverty trap. That is an unbelievable situation in what is one of the wealthiest countries in the world.

We do not underestimate the challenges faced by policymakers and understand that there are no easy choices. However, all choices must be underpinned by the principles of equality, fairness and social justice.

We in SVP respond to those who seek our help on the basis of need. We do this with the ever-generous support of the donations from the Irish people and we will redouble our efforts to seek that support in November with our Annual Appeal

As our national response to the pandemic and the Ukrainian crisis shows, Irish people believe in showing compassion towards others, and helping and protecting each other from harm. We all share a moral

responsibility to ensure that everyone in our country has a decent standard of living.

That is why we called our pre-budget submission launched in June *"The Cost of Surviving; Proposals for an Equal Ireland"*

Helping people survive and overcome unexpected financial demands on their resources is what we do. Life is not always black and white. It can be complex and particularly when that complexity is deepened by circumstances outside of our control.

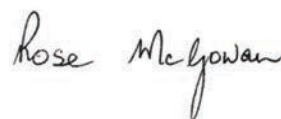
This is true for those who seek our help and for each member who provides the hand of friendship to those who come to us for help.

In a recent letter to all members I gave an assurance that it is mine and the National Management Council's strong desire to support all members in their work providing assistance to those people new to need or already known to the Society.

The question is how best to do that. We can meet the needs we encounter in a number of ways. Increasing financial assistance is one way and each Conference will do that in the way that is most appropriate to each request and most likely to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need.

We also meet needs by bringing our unique gifts as volunteers, using our time, our empathy, our experience and our listening ear.

The most appropriate and welcome response from those you support should be; *"You listened and helped, I felt relieved, I feel better and I could sleep."*



Rose McGowan,
National President, Society of St. Vincent de Paul



St Vincent de Paul

1581 - 1660

Feast Day 27th September

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'



Fr Paschal Scallon CM
SVP Spiritual Advisor

Luke 21:34-36

One of the most damning things anyone can say about another person is that they are coarse.

Most people would agree with Jesus in St Luke's gospel (21:34-36) that debauchery and drunkenness will make us coarse but Jesus even includes the 'cares of life' among the things that coarsen us.

This is a surprise because we think of the cares of life as our responsibilities: among our families or at work. They are not distractions from more important things. Are they?

That is why Jesus' call is so striking, 'Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength...to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

As members of the Society of St Vincent De Paul, we speak, in everything we do, of the fundamentals of faith and life. In faith we profess that Christ in his divinity is human and in his humanity he is divine. We serve people who are in difficulties because we believe that dignifying them is glorifying God. We reach out especially to those whose lives appear most disfigured and we seek to be part of what may restores in them the image of God. This was Christ's work, his every day concern, and if there is anything of Christ in us, we are blessed more than we may appreciate. We have not become coarse!

Jesus was forthright; he could be assertive. He was especially tough in his brushes with hypocrisy. He found it among the Pharisees but also among his disciples. He had to curb their anger (Luke 9:54) at their experiences

of rejection. When he saw their ambition, he spoke of what true authority entails. And, when the disciples think everything has ended in disaster at his crucifixion, the risen Jesus' first words to them are, "Peace be with you!"

The way we are with people matters. It goes to the heart of who we believe the people who come to us are. And, the way we are with each other in the SVP is inescapably part of this. We serve because we believe respect is at stake: people's self-respect and the respect everyone in society has for each other. It appals us that anyone should feel diminished or degraded by poverty or illness or addiction. We move from observation to action because we care but we have to be careful how we do that.

September is the month in which we celebrate the feast days of both St Vincent De Paul (27) and Blessed Frederic Ozanam (9). Their lives were given to a world that might be free of exploitation and predation, where the quality of human relationship might reflect our belief that human life has eternal value.

If the work, the mission of the Society, becomes cold charity then it will become coarse and if that happens then so will we. How then will we stand with confidence before the Son of Man?

Happy feast days!

Fr Paschal Scallon CM
SVP Spiritual Advisor



Mary Waide, Regional President of SVP North Region and Rose McGowan, SVP National President

Volunteers recognised for 450 years service at Garden Party

Representatives from across St Vincent de Paul North Region joined Fr Perry Gildea, SVP National President, Rose McGowan, and Regional President for the North Region, Mary Waide, at a garden party to celebrate Volunteers' Week, which runs each year from 1 to 7 June.

The theme of the event was 'A Time to Say Thanks!' and special recognition was given to those who are celebrating milestones in their service to the Society this year with a combined service of 450 years volunteering with SVP.

Mary Waide, Regional President of SVP North Region, said:

"It's lovely to think that we have members celebrating a combined 450 years of service to St Vincent de Paul this year. I'm privileged to recognise volunteers who have given a lifetime of service to the Society and without their

support, in the heart of our local communities across the North, the extent of the work of SVP would not be possible.

"Undeterred by the pandemic and now faced with handling requests for help from those struggling due to the cost of living crisis, our volunteers have shown resilience in how they continue to help the most vulnerable in our communities.

"It gave me great pleasure to welcome our National President, Rose McGowan, to the SVP Garden Party during Volunteers' Week, so we could honour our volunteers and celebrate their dedication, as it really is 'a time to say thanks' to all our volunteers for their faithful and continued service."

Those attending received certificates and a memento of their service whilst enjoying afternoon tea in the gardens of Laurel Villa in Magherafelt.



Mary Waide, Regional President of SVP North Region, Rose McGowan, SVP National President & Fr Perry Gildea, congratulate Mary McCullagh and Julia McGuigan of SVP St Columba



Mary Waide, Regional President of SVP North Region, Rose McGowan, SVP National President and Fr Perry Gildea, congratulate Ellen Brolly of SVP St Anthony, Mullabuoy



Mary Waide, Regional President of SVP North Region, Rose McGowan, SVP National President and Fr Perry Gildea, congratulate Aidan Coyle of SVP St Mary's Stewartstown



Mary Waide, Regional President of SVP North Region, Rose McGowan, SVP National President and Fr Perry Gildea, congratulate Annette McWilliams of SVP Blessed Virgin, Ballymena



Mary Waide, Regional President of SVP North Region, Rose McGowan, SVP National President and Fr Perry Gildea, congratulate Brendan Lynch of SVP Immaculate Conception, Newtownbutler



Mary Waide, Regional President of SVP North Region, Rose McGowan, SVP National President and Fr Perry Gildea, congratulate Eamon Quinn of SVP Stella Maris, Strangford



Mary Waide, Regional President of SVP North Region, Rose McGowan, SVP National President and Fr Perry Gildea, congratulate Pat O'Driscoll of SVP Most Holy Redeemer, Ballyholme



By Essie Toyo Wuddah
SVP Social Justice Intern

Prevention is better than a cure

when it comes to tackling Homelessness in Ireland

Over the last decade, Ireland has been facing a major homelessness and housing crisis. This varies from 'street' homelessness, to hidden homelessness, to those in emergency accommodation, those in inadequate housing and those at risk of losing their home. Every person is entitled to a safe and secure place that they can reside in but unfortunately, this is not yet the case in Ireland. SVP have worked directly with individuals and families experiencing housing insecurity, inequality, poverty, and marginalisation. This has afforded SVP a valuable perspective on the key challenges and opportunities in addressing the housing crisis.

According to the Simon Communities of Ireland, lack of social housing has been the driving cause of homelessness in Ireland. Following the financial crisis and property crash (2008,) there has been a pause of capital investment in affordable social housing for low-income families. Demand in the private rental market has also significantly increased and as a result, rents have increased beyond the reach of many low-income households. The 'Locked Out of the Market' report by the Simon Communities of Ireland, shows that only 657 properties were available to rent within 16 areas in June 2022. This is a significant decrease from the properties available in December 2021 (1,349.) Of these

properties to rent, only 35 of them met the standard rate for the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) limit and 2 at the discretionary rate. Of these 37 properties, over 70 per cent of them are in Dublin.

In SVP's experience, families often prioritise top-ups to their landlord, missing their payment as a result. This has increased financial hardship and pressure on low-income households as non-payment of the amount in full, can result in the suspension of the HAP payment

to their landlords, causing families to be at risk of homelessness. The priority for families is to pay the rent and keep a roof over their head which leaves little or nothing for other essentials. This is one of the main reasons for contacting SVP for help as outlined in our joint report with Threshold on the HAP.

The experience of "Lucy" and her family is just one example of the thousands of families just like this struggling in housing insecurity.



THE REALITY OF HOUSING INSECURITY: Lucy is parenting alone with two kids aged 8 and 10. She has a part-time job in a supermarket and works her hours around the children's school times. With the rise in the cost of gas, electricity, and food she is really struggling. She has missed a Housing Assistance Payment to the Local Authority as she was prioritising paying the weekly €50 top-up to the landlord. The arrears must be cleared, or the payment will be suspended to the landlord. Lucy says she cannot pay all the arrears as *"I can't even afford shopping at the moment"*. She says she is *"down to twenty euro until next pay day"*. Lucy doesn't know how she will cope but *"me and my kids can't end up on the street."*



We do not underestimate the difficulties facing the government at this time and recognise some of the changes being made to tackle homelessness and housing insecurity through the new Government strategy Housing for All. Although the Government spent €9 million on preventing homelessness in 2018, they spent significantly more (€147 million) on emergency accommodation. This response focuses on the problem at hand rather than the need to prevent it from occurring in the first place.

In Budget 2023, SVP are calling on the Government to pursue a housing led approach to the housing crisis. In order for this to occur, the annual targets under Housing for All need to increase by 5,000 units annually. We also ask the Government to end the practice of unaffordable top-ups on the Housing Assistance Payment by ensuring that no one falls below Supplementary Welfare Allowance levels after housing costs and welcome the recent announcement by the Minister for

Housing to address this issue. We also request that the Government prevent homelessness through early intervention by ensuring that the Department of Housing and the Department of Social Protection work together to identify households at risk of losing their rented accommodation.

SVP believe that the most effective way to address homelessness is to focus on prevention rather than a cure. If the Government can identify those at risk of homelessness early on, they can prevent them from experiencing long-term financial hardship and pressure in the first place and remove the fear of potentially becoming homeless. We must combine all of our efforts to tackle homelessness in this way. It is a step in the right direction to becoming an Ireland we can be proud of.



2023

PRE-BUDGET
SUBMISSION

THE COST OF SURVIVING

Proposals for
an Equal
Ireland



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Budgets are all about choices

Lets make sure they are socially just choices



By Dr. Tricia Keilthy
Head of SVP Social Justice

It is well flagged that Budget 2023 will be a cost-of-living budget in response to rapidly rising inflation. So far most of the discussion has focused on whether Government will choose to give everyone a small helping hand or target resources to those most in need.

With the impact of rising costs being much harsher for households on low incomes as outlined in analysis by the Economic and Social Research Institute, the case is clear for targeted protections to prevent further serious hardship. Economists would also agree this is the best way to ensure Budget measures don't fuel further inflation.

From the Society's work in communities, Members know countless examples of people across the country unable to heat their homes and feed and care for their families. A decade of cuts and freezes to our social welfare system and underinvestment in services has brought us to a moment of extreme pressure with the rising cost of essentials. People on low and fixed incomes were already at the brink, battling a rising tide of high rents, growing bills, often juggling health conditions and caring responsibilities.

Now with inflation at a record high, people's options are even more limited. If you're already cutting back on essentials, what else are you going to go without if prices continue to go up? SVP are concerned that if resources are not directed towards people on low and fixed incomes, more

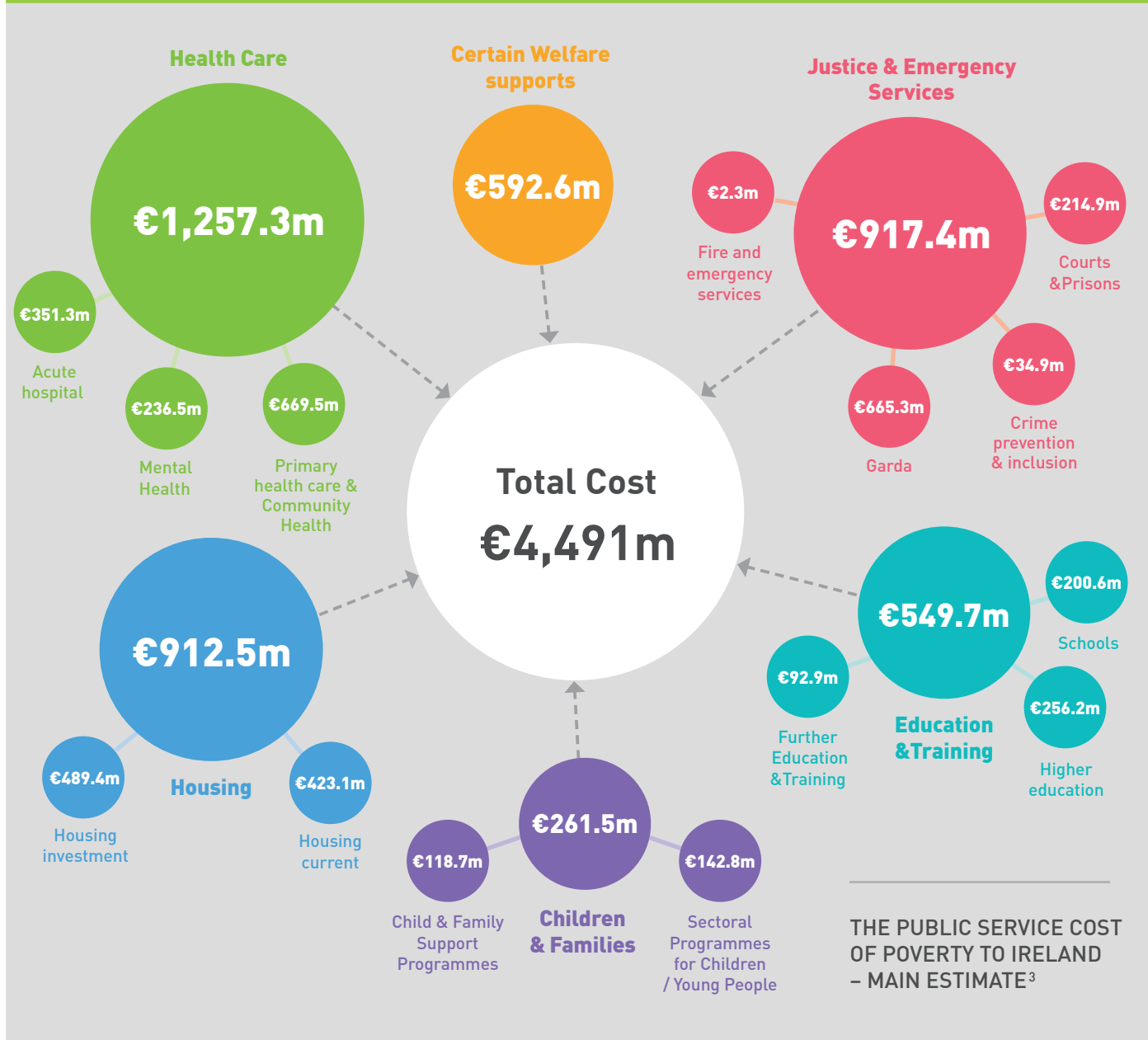
people will be pulled into poverty and those already struggling to get by will be pushed even further into hardship. Increasing social welfare rates ahead of inflation will act as a lifeline, keeping people on low and fixed incomes afloat in a sea of rising living costs.

To achieve this, Budget 2023 needs to deliver a €20 increase in core rates, with additional supports for the poorest children, lone parents, and people with a disability. SVP are also advocating for extra support to working poor households through a real living wage and improvements in the Working Family Payment. Income supports must go hand in hand with investment in social housing, energy efficiency schemes, genuinely free primary and secondary education, adequate SUSI supports, and accessible and affordable rural transport.

In the longer term, Government needs to benchmark social welfare rates against the cost of a Minimum Essential Standard of Living to ensure everyone can live a decent life.

Our response to the pandemic shows the difference adequate social protection payments make—without Covid income supports twice as many unemployed people would have been living at risk of poverty (CSO – Survey of Living Conditions 2021). But these supports were only temporary, and income supports have returned to a rate below the poverty line.

The Public Service Cost of Poverty



The Hidden Cost of Poverty: Estimating the Public Service Cost of Poverty in Ireland by Dr. Micheál Collins, Commissioned by the Society of St Vincent de Paul: June 2020

Inadequate social welfare and low pay means people are trapped in poverty, which seriously damages their physical and mental health. Investing in our social protection system and public services reduces expenditure in the future making up for the ways poverty damages people's lives – estimated at €4.5 billion annually (Collins, 2020). As a country we believe in making sure that everyone can live with dignity. The social protection system is one of many public services that we all rely on at different

points in our lives. Strengthening this system and making key investments in services that will lift people out of poverty whether they are out of work, living with an illness or disability, caring for a loved one, on low pay or in retirement must be the main priorities for policy makers.

We know ending poverty is possible, but we need to see Government make the right choices in Budget 2023.



Dr. Tricia Keilthy, SVP Head of Social Justice; Dr Michael Drew; Joe O'Brien, Minister of State at the Departments of Social Protection and Rural and Community Development with special responsibility for Community Development and Charities and Rose McGowan, SVP National President.

Food Poverty in Ireland

Study provides evidence for additional policies to support households on lower incomes and address food poverty

By Michael Drew

author *Uncovering Food Poverty in Ireland; A Hidden Deprivation*

The causes and impact on those people impacted by food poverty are explored in a new comprehensive study of food poverty which was launched in May,

Entitled "*Uncovering Food Poverty in Ireland; A Hidden Deprivation*" this study provides compelling evidence of the need for additional policies to be adopted to support households on lower incomes and address food poverty. It also provide policy makers, academics and students interested in poverty and inequality with an essential reference point.

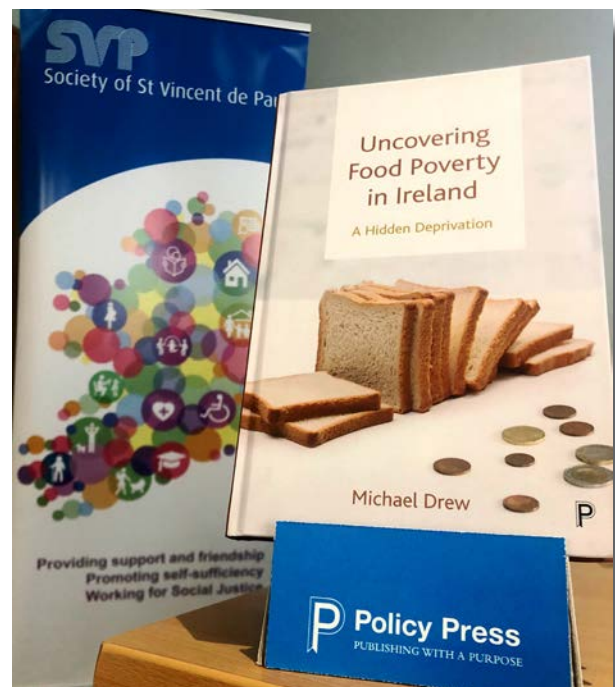
Food poverty is a significant problem in Ireland, affecting at least 7% of the population (350,000 people) and rising. However, there is a low level of awareness of the issue and the extent of its impact on many families.

I was motivated to write this book through familiarity with the tireless work of the SVP and other charities.

There is an urgent need to raise the profile of food poverty and give a voice to those who live through it.

Key findings:

- Households at a relatively high risk of food poverty included lone parents with children, those renting at or below the market rate (eg in social housing), the unemployed and ill/disabled.
- This study, which was based on interviews with more than 40 users of food aid in the Dublin area, enabled people affected by food poverty to voice their experiences. Respondents who turn to food aid for assistance have very difficult lives, many experiencing hunger on a regular basis, often combined with ill health and onerous caring responsibilities.
- Social exclusion was a common experience, as respondents frequently could not afford to participate in important social events involving family, friends and the local community. The interviews also revealed the emotional impacts of food poverty, which included severe stress and anxiety in trying to make ends meet and provide for their families. Self-blame, shame and embarrassment about their situation were also commonplace and it was clear that there is a very significant stigma associated with seeking food aid.
- Respondents used a variety of coping strategies, with survival on low-income forcing them to make extremely difficult decisions about how to prioritise spending. Expenditure on food was often a relatively low priority, ranked below rent and energy costs. Children were the highest priority and respondents frequently went without food and other necessities to provide for them.
- Those who relied on social welfare found income protection inadequate to maintain a minimum standard of living. There is a lack of responsiveness and flexibility of the social welfare system to support the needs of those with insecure work in low-paid sectors. Other issues include the duration of some temporary welfare payments (eg the Fuel Allowance), and persistent welfare traps. Lack of social housing resulted in reliance on the expensive private rental market, where many experienced serious difficulties with the operation of housing allowances. The inability to access affordable housing sometimes gave rise to the experience of homelessness. Those with an illness or disability found the Disability Allowance inadequate.
- There are multiple barriers to employment, including inadequate educational supports. Issues with the availability and affordability of childcare also presented a barrier to employment for low-income households with children.



- A further driver of food poverty is insecure, temporary work in low-paid sectors, which is shown to have negative impacts on health and well-being. Precarious work is exacerbated by relatively weak employment protection in Ireland, which has facilitated arrangements, such as false self-employment. In addition, respondents in receipt of the Working Family Payment found that it was inadequate. In conclusion, the findings in my book demonstrate that various policies and practices of government and employers contribute to food poverty.

Rather than expanding food charity that fails to tackle the structural causes, food poverty needs to be addressed with further investment in Ireland's anti-poverty infrastructure. The Government's Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020–2025 sets challenging poverty reduction targets, which align with its Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 to eradicate poverty by 2030. The Government has established a target to reduce consistent poverty to 2% or less by 2025 (from 5.6% in 2018) and committed to move the wages floor to a living wage during the Government's lifetime. This is not enough!

Acting now on food poverty would send a clear signal of serious intent to meet these targets. Much progress can be made through the introduction of a living wage, income security and a responsive, adequately funded welfare system. I hope that this book will help inform policy responses to address the root causes of food poverty in Ireland.

GDPR COMPLIANCE IN SVP

FOCUS ON DATA BREACHES



WHAT COULD BE A DATA BREACH IN MY WORK WITH THE SOCIETY?

- Ø Mislaid confidential notes
- Ø Stolen Laptop or Mobile Phone
- Ø Confidential notes returned by a member of the public to a conference
- Ø Misdelaivered, opened post returned by a member of the public to a conference



WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- Ø If you become aware of any Society data that has been lost, stolen, compromised, or misused you must contact the relevant Data Champion for your Conference/Area or Region as soon as possible



WHAT DOES THE SOCIETY HAVE TO DO?

- Ø In some cases, the Society has 72 hours to report a breach to the Data Protection Commission



WHO IS MY DATA CHAMPION?

- Ø Home Visitation conference – your Regional Coordinator or Manager
- Ø Employees or specialist services – relevant Manager or Head of Function

MORE INFORMATION: See SVP DATA BREACH POLICY AND PROCEDURE



National Management Council representative for Retail Paddy O'Flynn, SVP National President Rose McGowan, National Retail Development Manager Dermot McGilloway, National Retail Co-ordinator Mary Butterly.

National Retail Conference & Awards 2022

By Dermot McGilloway
National Retail
Development Manager

The beautiful and historic city of Derry played host to the 5th National Retail Conference & Awards on Monday June 20th. The event had been due to take place in June 2020 but was delayed due to covid pandemic. As always, no SVP funds were spent on this event, which was sponsored by All-Tex Recyclers Ltd. Master of Ceremonies for the day was National Retail Co-ordinator, Mary Butterly.

Over 150 volunteers and staff from our shops and OFCs across Ireland were joined by colleagues of St Vincent's shops in England & Wales to consider how our retail network can maximise its contribution to the local community whilst raising funds for local Conferences. Sustainability was a recurring theme throughout the day.



Dermot McGilloway, Elaine Heyworth, Dave Barringer, Rose McGowan

The event also had an international theme as Dave Barringer, CEO of SVP in the United States, gave the keynote address with his compelling '50 lessons from 25 years working in Thrift.' The SVP in the USA has 148,000 volunteers working in 4,300 communities. Incoming National President for SVP England and Wales, Killiney native, Elaine Heyworth, also led a small delegation from the St Vincent's shops in England and Wales.

The motivation speaker was Richard Moore, founder, and CEO of Children in the Crossfire. Richard, a Derry native, was blinded at the age of 10 when hit by a rubber bullet. The mission of Children in the Crossfire is to work with others to tackle the injustices of poverty affecting children in Derry and overseas. One of his key messages is that 'forgiveness is a gift that you give to yourself'.

Also speaking was Matthew Hopkinson, managing director of Didobi, a UK based specialist on data for business and state sectors including retail. Matthew spoke about the mixed fortunes of our city centres and the importance of serving your local communities, whilst recognising opportunities like a vibrant night-time economy.

National Retail Development Manager, Dermot McGilloway, spoke about the great work already undertaken to develop a uniquely Vincentian instore experience, focused on serving the customer, supported by a robust supply chain, that distinguished SVP shops from the rest of that sector and was the basis of our sustainable competitive advantage.

McGilloway highlighted that SVP globally, with shops across the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, England & Wales, and Ireland, was a major player in ethical and sustainable retailing, and needed to play to these strengths.



Matthew Hopkinson, Richard Moore, Dermot McGilloway

There are over 230 SVP shops throughout Ireland, trading under the 'Vincent's' name. Vincent's shops are a hugely important aspect of the service SVP provides to those who seek its assistance. Not only do the shops provide goods at affordable prices and help reconnect people, disconnected by poverty, they also provide an income source for the Society, which is directed back into the local communities.

Vincent's are also committed to the concept of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle by recycling 97% of donated items. The Society has also developed a double filter system of extracting all potential value from donated textiles and household items at shop level and again through a network of national Order Fulfilment Centres. This ensures that all possible value is extracted from every donation received and minimises waste.

Dermot McGilloway said, "As someone who was born and raised in Derry I am personally delighted that we could organise this conference in my home city. This Conference provides the opportunity for the volunteers and staff throughout our network to reflect on the importance of Vincent's in our communities by providing a great customer service ethic which also generate financial support to their local Conferences, and at the same time taking visible action on sustainability."

"We believe that we have taken a lead role in our sector in meaningfully promoting the circular economy and are committed to tackling the twin problems of social deprivation on the one hand and the environmental damage caused by the excessive consumption of fast fashion on the other."

Retail Awards 2022



Dermot McGilloway with Donna McGee (Ballyshannon) and Dave Barringer (CEO of SVP USA)

The annual SVP Retail awards took place following the retail Conference in Derry. A highlight of the evening was the graduation ceremony for all staff who had completed the requisite five modules of the Rendu Award.

Named in honour of one of the co-founders of SVP, Blessed Rosalie Rendu DC, this Retail Development Award took over a year to complete and had 5 modules:

1. **Supervisory Management – QQI level 6**
2. **Health & Safety – QQI level 5**
3. **Retail Display – QQI level 5**
4. **Customer Care**
5. **Financial Compliance**



Congratulations to our 13 graduates who received this beautiful certificate.

**Sonia O'Neill
Stephen McGuire
Agnes Sage
Lisa McArdle**



**Donna McGee
Alison Scally
Patrick Maher
David Thompson**



**Lillian Hickey
Niamh Walsh
Eimear Hannigan
Patsy Brown
Helena McMahon**



Also at the Retail Awards, participants of the Vincent's Olympics – A Retail Recovery Showcase, received gold, silver or bronze certificates for participation in the 9-week program from autumn 2021. Over 200 shops from across Ireland, England and Wales engaged in a tailored program of customer engagement tactics to test the theory that engaging directly with customers impacted positively on sales. Statistical analysis was conducted on the results from the campaign and established a strong correlation between the tactics used and sales growth. Participating shops saw sales growth of 18% whilst nonparticipating shops saw growth of 2%. This program will be extended this year to include instore activities that directly address poverty in the community.



*A delegation from St Vincent's in England & Wales collecting their awards.
Dermot McGilloway, Helen Voyce, Sam Johnson, Elaine Heyworth, Jo Aspin, Pam Ashworth.*

Other awards handed out on the night were:

Vincent's National Window Display Competition 2022

Regional Winners



Kircubbin
Ballyjamesduff
Meath Street
Tramore

Dingle
Banagher
Carrick on Suir

Ballina
Ballyshannon
Laurence Centre, Drogheda

Vincent's Volunteer of the Year Award 2022

Regional Winners



Kevin McGuirk - Rathfarnham
Edel McLoughlin - Bettystown
Molly Murphy RIP - Portadown
Noreen Daly - Bundoran

Breege Heneghan - Claremorris
Martin Langton - Nenagh OFC
Marian Brickley - Blarney
Martina Gough - Carlow

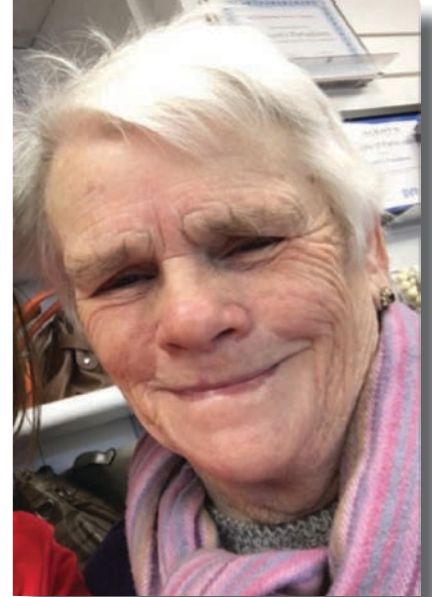
Posthumous Award for Molly Murphy, Shop Volunteer, Portadown

The Volunteer of the Year award for 2022 in North Region was awarded posthumously to Molly Murphy who had dedicated the past 22 years of her life to working in Vincent's in Portadown 4 days a week.

Molly touched the lives of so many people with her good humour, helpfulness, and legendary home-made apple pie.

Molly was on first name terms with everyone who came into the shop and ensured that they all left with a bargain and a smile.

The contribution made by Molly over the years is truly immeasurable but hopefully this award will go some way to recognising her magnificent contribution to Portadown through her work in Vincent's.



Vincent's National Team of the Year Award 2022 Regional Winners



Longford
Wexford
Tralee OFC

Roxboro
Firhouse
Swords

Cushendall
Tubbercurry
Portumna



The national retail team of Regional Retail Managers, Area Managers, OFC Managers and National team on stage at the closing of the event for 2022.

Vincent's AAA World Cup

By Dermot McGilloway
Head of Retail



Whilst avid soccer fans patiently await the start of FIFA World Cup 2022 later this year, the real action will be taking place in Vincent's charity shops from October 24th with our very own "AAA World Cup".

In keeping with previous years, our magnificent retail teams will use the peak trading period between Halloween and Christmas to test themselves, and the tactics in use in our shops, to ensure that we maximise the value that we generate for our customers and our Conferences.

With the cost of living crisis now affecting households across the country, it behoves us as Vincentian retailers to be the very best version of ourselves that we can be (Peak Shift Principle), which will hopefully consolidate our unique position within the market (our sustainable competitive advantage) whilst giving our Conferences, Areas, and Regions access to much needed funds.

The AAA World Cup, will help us:

1. **Do a better job meaningfully serving the poor**
2. **Help is target new customer types - never done before in Peaks**
3. **Make better use of our stock and space (Boston style stock & mark down program)**
4. **Allow us to meaningfully test international best practice within Vincentian retailing**

So, keep an eye on your local Vincent's team from October 24th for a display of skill, agility and perseverance that could not be matched by the great Pele himself.

VINCENT'S
SUPPORTING THE WORK OF **SVP** THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

AAA WORLD CUP

MONDAY 24TH OCTOBER TO SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2022

AAA WORLD CUP...
AN SVP SALES STIMULUS PROGRAM THAT ASSISTS PEOPLE IN NEED AND ATTRACTS NEW CUSTOMERS WHILST ADDING SALES

The Peak Shift Principle is a phenomenon in which a supernormal stimulus is preferred over the normal form of that stimulus. During World Cup, we will present a supernormal version of our work in **3 key areas**:

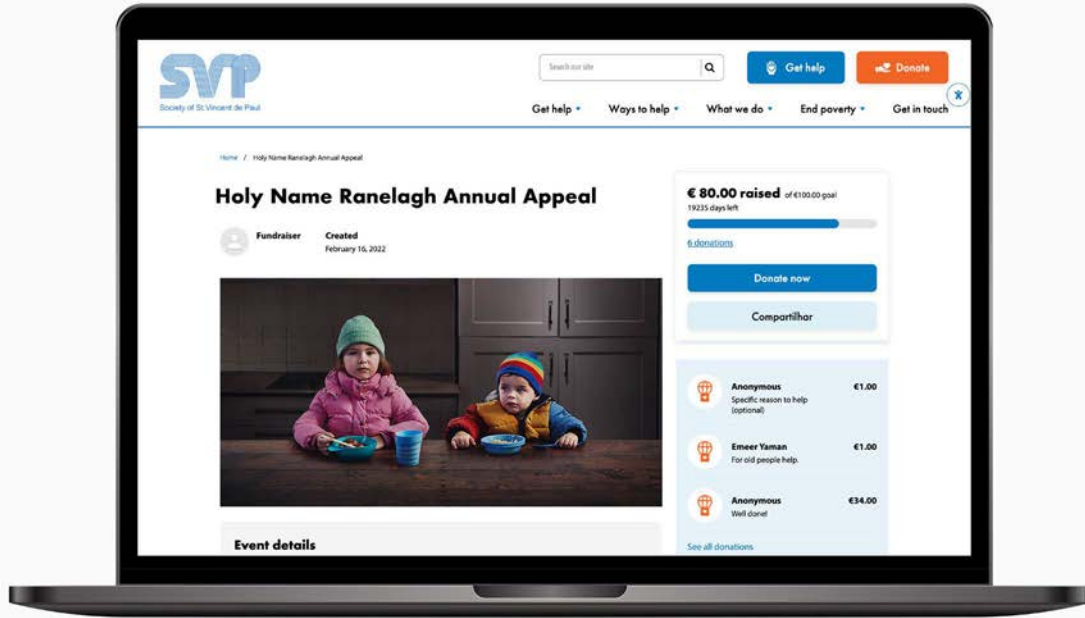
- ASSIST** People in need
- ATTRACT** New Customers
- ADD** new sales with our "Display more & markdown program" using a 3-week cycle

COMPETE AS A QUARTER FINALIST WITH 1 ACTIVITY:
Assist people in need with 3 new instore services

COMPETE AS A SEMI FINALIST WITH 2 ACTIVITIES:
Attract 3 new customer types along with the Assist activity

COMPETE AS A FINALIST WITH 3 ACTIVITIES:
ADD new sales with our "Display more & markdown program" using a 3-week cycle

MARKDOWN CYCLE			
WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
Full Price	50% off	€1	Remove from display



Conference fundraising on the SVP website

In 2021, 100 Conferences raised €30k through the SVP website using Conference fundraising website pages. Similar to last year we will be sending out the on September 12th. This will need to be completed by October 14th to go live on November 1st 2022. All Conference fundraisers will stay active until January 13th 2023.

Please note Finance will issue funds directly to your Conference at the latter end of the first quarter of 2023. If you have any queries relating to this please contact coi.accounts@svp.ie.

Once your Conference fundraising page is live, we will email you a unique link which you can share and will take your donors directly to your Conference fundraising webpage on the SVP website.

Why get one?

SVP Conference Fundraisers are the preferred option to using third parties such as GoFundMe or JustGiving because that are:

- Operated by SVP, and set up by our Communications Team
- Hosted on SVP website
- No additional fees
- Donors are not asked for additional “tip” or “commission fee”
- Easier to allocate to Conferences and donations transferred quarterly

The page can be shared on a local parish website, local Facebook pages, or even in Whatsapp groups. This year we can also create QR codes that bring donors directly to your fundraising page. Set up your own Conference fundraising page today and remember that 100% of the money raised goes to your local Conference.



FOOD OR HEAT?

Many families will face impossible choices this Christmas.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

ANNUAL APPEAL

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
is a registered charity - CHY6892

CONFERENCE NAME

**Holy Name Ranelagh
Annual Appeal**



CONFERENCE FUNDRAISER ADDRESS

svp.ie/holynameranelagh

Donate locally, at svp.ie or call 0818 176 176

NORTH REGION



Area Gatherings

A series of St Vincent de Paul Area Gatherings have taken place across the North Region.

Aimed at bringing members of St Vincent de Paul together again after having been apart for more than two years, the events provided SVP members with an opportunity to reflect on the impact of the pandemic and on the work they have been doing within the local communities with vulnerable people in their areas who have been seeking assistance and support from SVP.

Members had an opportunity at these gatherings to discuss the challenges and also consider hopes and expectations of how the Society can continue to develop in the year ahead, especially with its core work of Home Visitation returning post pandemic.

Speaking about the Area Gatherings, Mary Waide, SVP Regional President for the North Region, said:

“It was wonderful to be able to meet again after all this time and to welcome so many SVP members to our first face to face Area Gatherings since early 2020. Whilst we continued to host meetings via Zoom, it just wasn’t the same so for some people who have been long-serving members of SVP to meet again safely was truly heartwarming.

“These Area Gatherings provided those attending with vital information for recommending Home Visitation in our local communities so our members would be well equipped when assessing what assistance clients may need. Requests for help from SVP are rising with increased inflation and the continuous rising energy and food costs and we would appeal to anyone that might need the Society’s help to please contact us.”

The Area Gatherings have been facilitated by Mary Davis and Brendan Hennessy.





Making the National News

SVP North Region made the BBC National News with a topic we are all sadly too familiar with these days. Mary Waide, SVP Regional President for the North Region, and Brendan McKernan, SVP Area President for Armagh and Craigavon, visited the home of a young single mum who is having difficulty making ends meet due to the current cost of living crisis.

This interview gave an opportunity to raise the profile of the work SVP is doing in the most disadvantaged areas in Belfast just before the recent Stormont elections.



Corporate Donations

St Vincent de Paul in the North Region has been developing and building relationships with a number of corporate partners over the past year.

In particular, we would like to say thank you to Argento, a local independent jewellery retailer, for their kind donation of £2,500. Musgraves food wholesalers, which recently donated 5,750 bottles of hand wash, disinfectant spray, anti-bacterial hand cream and wipes. Moy Park food company for their kind donation of vouchers for use in their shop in Ballymena.



SVP & Argento



SVP & Moy Park



SVP & Musgraves

Area President retires

Brenda Devlin, who has been a member of SVP for more than 10 years, was recently honoured at a special mass celebrating her five year term as Area President for West Belfast.



Mary's Maundy Service Invitation

At Easter Mary Waide attended the Maundy Thursday Service at St George's Chapel Windsor.

Speaking about her invitation, Mary said: *"I was thrilled to receive an invitation to the Maundy Thursday Service at St George's Chapel Windsor Castle and was even more delighted when I was informed that I had been nominated to attend the service by The Most Reverend Noel Treanor, Bishop of Down and Connor, as Church of Ireland Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, had very generously shared one of his two places with our Diocese.*

"It was a great honour to be able to represent St Vincent de Paul and be recognised for our work by HRH Prince Charles. He presented me with the Maundy Purses and, when shaking my hand, advised me that the specially minted coins were being presented to me on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen as a thank you for our work. One of only 96 women and 96 men to have been invited to the service, marking her 96th birthday, I was in awe as I witnessed the pomp and ceremony while watching the procession of clergy and Royal representatives take place right in front of me. I think I had one of the best seats in the chapel!

"The organ music was beautiful and the choir singing in the magnificent St George's Chapel was just breathtaking. We listened to the Holy Thursday readings and after the service we were welcomed to a Reception in Windsor State Apartments. Truly a once in a lifetime experience and one I will always remember as a highlight of my time as your Regional President."



New Vincent's for Springfield Road

A new Vincent's has opened on Belfast's Springfield Road and feedback has been great among the local community. Located close to Clonard Monastery, the shop is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.



Social Justice Engagement with Elected Representatives

The St Vincent de Paul Social Justice Group for the North Region has been engaging with political representatives across the Region to raise awareness of our work and to impress upon them the need for the government to focus on a range of issues which include:

- A reduction in the five-week wait for the Universal Credit assessment to be completed. Currently it results in people having to take an advanced payment, and repayments leave people with a reduced rate of benefit, unnecessarily repaying debt to Governments which pushes people deeper into poverty.
- A reintroduction of the £20 uplift to those on Universal Credit which was provided during lockdown. In our experience, this uplift brought people up to the position of “just managing”. Reintroducing it would help those barely coping due to the rising costs of electricity and heating.
- Holiday hunger – ensure that children living in poverty will not go hungry during the upcoming school holidays by guaranteeing provision and funding for school meals throughout holidays.
- Remove the two child limit for Universal Credit and Child Tax Credits. This policy results

in increased hardship for families and removing it would protect children from poverty.

- Increase Housing benefit allowances so that tenants in the private rented sector do not have to supplement their payments as properties available have higher rents than their entitlements. This leads to poverty among tenants in the sector who have to make compromises in other areas to meet their rent payments.

Productive meetings have been held with MLAs and Councillors both face and via Zoom and these will continue into the autumn.



Christ the Redeemer, Lagmore

Martine raised the money in memory of her cousin Seamus Brady who SVDP had helped when he was in need. The 50 to 50 crew had Tracy Bingham from St Vincent De Paul last night after a mammoth effort from our very own Martine Mullan to raise much needed funds for the local charity. Her Quiz Night & Disco raised £1205. Amazing stuff. Great work by Martine and the local walking crew. Special Thanks to Dominic Mooney for the Quiz and Mick McQuillan for the Disco and for everyone who bought a ticket and donated a prize.



St Canice's Conference, Limavady

Members of St Canice's Conference, Limavady attended a special Mass in St Mary's Church on May 16th to celebrate the long service of three past members; Jim Herron, Sean O'Neill and Margaret McLaughlin.



Fr Chris McDermott officiated and joined Conference members for a meal at the newly opened Bethany Community Centre where certificates were presented to Jim, Sean and Margaret.



SOUTHWEST REGION

St. Vincent de Paul Kenmare



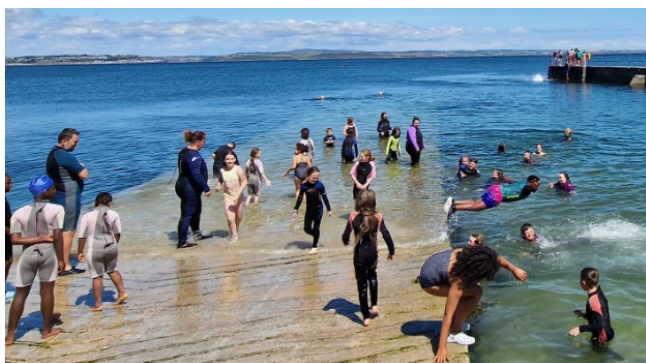
Mary Ann Riney, Mary D O'Neill, Eva Kelleher, Ann Smyth and Marie Therese Russell of St Vincent de Paul Kenmare pictured at the recent gathering to mark Eva Kelleher's retirement after several decades of service to the conference in Kenmare, as Sheila O'Sullivan, Conference President, thanks Eva.

Eva was very dedicated to visitation in particular and the clients eagerly looked forward to her regular visits. *Picture courtesy Kenmare News*

Blessed Contardo Ferrini Special Works Conference

Blessed Contardo Ferrini is an SVP Special Works Conference. The Conference provides a holiday for a week in July for 100 – 120 children aged between 7 and 12, we also run weekend breaks for older children. All the children and their families are being supported by the local visitation conference.

The project started many years ago in Ringabella, an SVP holiday home. It welcomed 20 children each week through the summer months. The holidays ended in Ringabella in 1996 as the facility wasn't fit for purpose and in need of huge upgrades. The conference did try other venues for the next few years but unfortunately none were suitable long-term.



In 1999 we were lucky enough to find a week at Knockadoon Camp. Knockadoon Camp is owned by the Dominican order and sits at Knockadoon Head, Ballymacoda Co Cork. That first week in Knockadoon we had 50 children, 5 leaders and realised the project had found its new home.

The aim is to provide a safe environment to allow the children to have fun, to make friends and to experience sharing, respect and community. Knockadoon is situated on the coast and the fun is therefore naturally based around the sea with crab fishing, swimming and playing on the beach being the most popular activities. There are also various sports competitions on the go, arts and crafts, games and a disco every evening. The week will always end with a party, to celebrate all the friendships that have been made during week, the children all getting a new set clothes to dance the night away, a party bag, a present to acknowledge each individual child and what they brought to the holiday and a prize giving ceremony where the children are recognised for their achievements with medals and trophies.



But the fun or should we say work starts long before the buses arrive on camp. From the initial Conference invitation, to shopping for equipment, clothes, arts & crafts, treats for the nightly shop, buckets & Spades, the very important twine for the ole favourite Crab fishing, updating our music collection for the nightly disco. Organising safeguarding training for our leaders/volunteers, ensuring all Garda vetting is up to date and organising the activities and timetable for the week. Home visits to each child referred to our conference to meet the family, discuss the holiday with parents and give them the information about the week.

Thanks to a dedicated conference and 20 plus committed volunteers all this work is made so enjoyable and thousands of children have enjoyed a well-deserved, and in some cases, a much-needed holiday over the years.

The week in Knockadoon is always an amazing experience for both children and leaders/volunteers but this year it was extra special as like most things the holiday hadn't taken place in 2020 & 2021 due to Covid 19. There was great excitement in Tuckey Street on July 17th as 80 children, their luggage, their pillows and 22 leaders boarded the bus for the trip to Knockadoon. That excitement, the wonderful weather, the great work that Fr Luuk Jansen OP and his staff had done to get the camp ready for us and during the week made for a very successful holiday.

Roll on 2023...

In Tribute

To Deceased Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Vera Carney

*Pius X Conference,
Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo*

Vera Carney who was a lifelong member of the Society for over 50 years and indeed was instrumental in founding the Society in Kiltimagh, sadly passed away on the 1st January 2022.

Vera was a dedicated and much loved member of our Conference. She was a compassionate, non-judgmental and caring person and had a great commitment and empathy for the Society and the work that we do, always believing that if there was a need out there, then we needed to address that need.

Our deepest sympathy goes to all the Carney family.

May Vera's gentle soul rest in peace.

Ester McManus - An Appreciation

Last year, the people of Monaghan mourned the passing of Ester Mc Manus, Glaslough Street. She lived a life of love, care and kindness to all. Her family was her first love, but at the same time she made an immense contribution to the Monaghan community.

Many people will remember her as a person who championed the needs of the poor, the lonely, the elderly, those with physical disabilities and those with mental health challenges.

She was a loyal member of the ICA and participated in its many activities, along with visits to An Grianán and participation in workshops there. Travelling abroad, both with family and friends and with the Positive Age Group, was something she looked forward to and enjoyed, and she visited many countries.

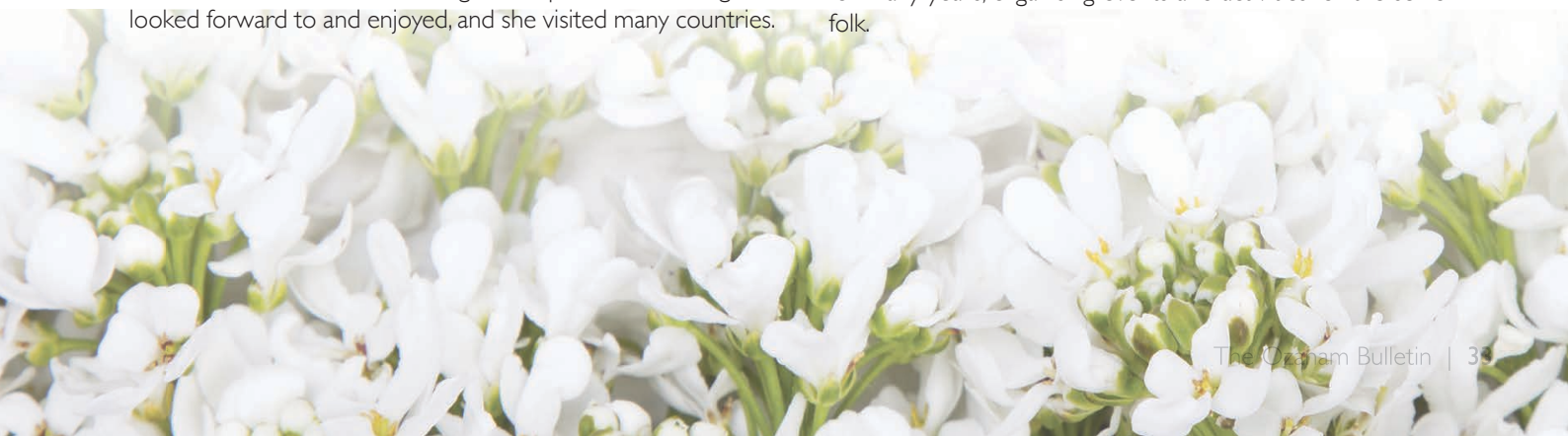
Esther was deeply involved in many organisations over the years and always gave great dedication and commitment. Many of these organisations were represented as Esther's funeral cortege travelled through the town to St Macartan's Cathedral.

Her involvement in St Vincent de Paul for over 50 years was of paramount importance to her. She served as President and Treasurer, furthering social justice and liaising with many organisations to access support for the needy. Visitation of those in need was an integral part of her work and she never missed helping with the organisation's church gate collections, until Covid-19 arrived. She delivered Meals on Wheels for many years, including every Christmas Day. She was also involved in setting up the first St Vincent de Paul shop in Park Street.

Esther was a founding member of the Monaghan Mental Health Association over 50 years ago. In her work with this group, she strove to help the vulnerable and those with mental health challenges. Part of her work in this regard involved organising parties both in St Davnet's and, more recently, afternoon tea and music and dance in the local hotels. Trips to Bundoran for people living in St Davnet's were organised, which was unheard of at the time. Promoting positive mental health in the schools throughout Monaghan, she initiated the Mental Health Essay and Poetry Competition which has continued to the present.

Esther was also a founding member of the Monaghan Branch of the Irish Wheelchair Association. She loved visiting and organising the annual parties and outings.

Over many years Esther was involved in the Monaghan Senior Citizens Committee, helping to organise annual Christmas parties and summer trips. A founding member of the Monaghan Tuesday Club, she served on the committee for many years, organising events and activities for the senior folk.





Esther was much involved in the life of her parish. She had a deep, prayerful faith and lived her faith by her actions. She always had respect for other faiths and denominations.

She was a promoter for the Parish Draw and assisted at the weekly parish count. Many pilgrimages to Knock were organised by her and she regularly participated in many others, both at home and abroad.

She was a founding member of the Matt Talbot Committee to promote his canonisation. Regular visits to people in hospitals and nursing homes were part of her daily routine.

Over the years, Esther was involved in many church gate and street collections, either co-ordinating them or helping numerous groups with their organisation. She instigated and helped collections for disasters in other countries and was involved in the Friends of St Louis, contributing to many mission charities.

She went out of her way to help and guide people in need. A firm believer in getting things done, she left no stone unturned to achieve a positive outcome. She was determined and purposeful while always sympathetic and empathetic.

Esther's Funeral Mass, in celebration and thanksgiving of her life, was celebrated in St Macartan's Cathedral by Canon Paddy Mc Ginn and concelebrated by Fr Pádraig Murphy. Members of the family led the readings, the Prayers of the Faithful and the Communion reflection and they provided accompanying ceol traidisiúnta.

Her legacy and memory are our blessing. Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís.

Ceol na n-aingeal go gcloise sí agus leaba i measc na naomh go raibh aici.

Frances McGreal

Pius X Conference, Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo

It was with great shock and sadness that the members of Pius X Conference in Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo learned of the untimely passing of our dedicated and much loved friend and colleague, Frances McGreal on Christmas day 2021. Frances was a totally unselfish Vincentian for over 30 years and was a perfect role model to the act of charity for us all.

Sadly we have lost a friend and SVP member who will be missed by us all.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Frances' husband Tom, her daughters Sandra and Annmarie, sisters Marion and Una and brother Willie and her adored grandchildren.

May Frances' gentle soul rest in peace.

Gus O'Brien

Presentation of Our Lady Conference, Gurrabrahra, Cork City

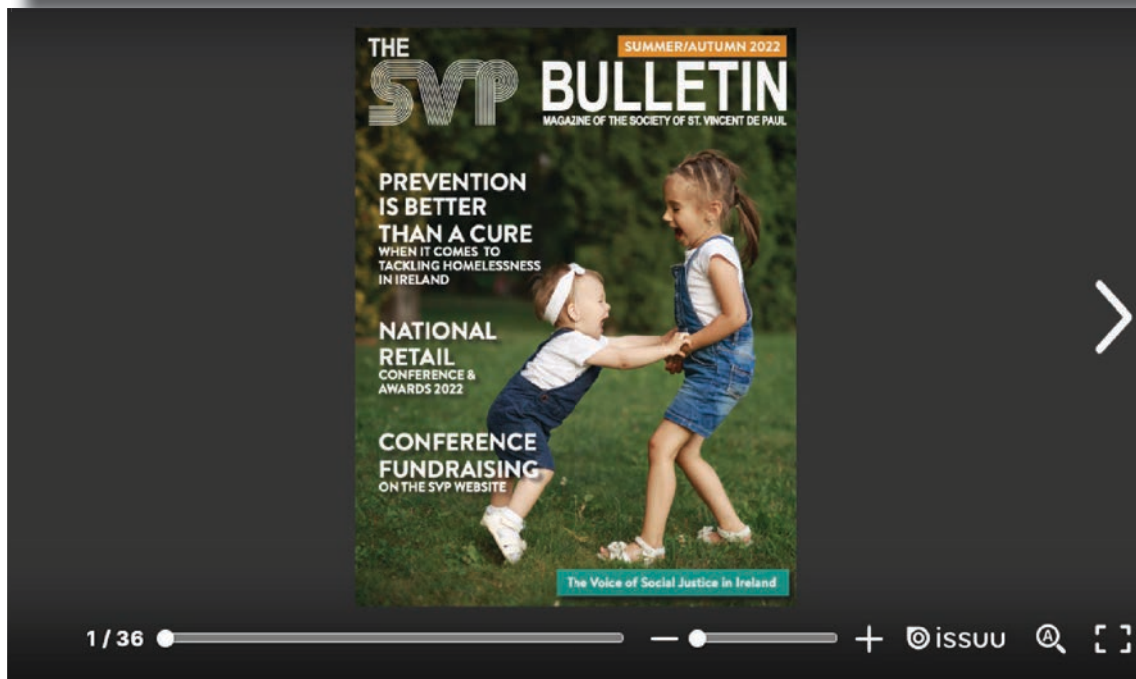
Gus O'Brien who was a member of the Presentation of Our Lady Conference, Gurrabrahra, Cork City, died on the 18th June 2022.

He was an active member of the Conference for over 46 years.

May he rest in peace.

THE SVP BULLETIN

The full archive of The SVP Bulletin is available online.
svp.ie/bulletin



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