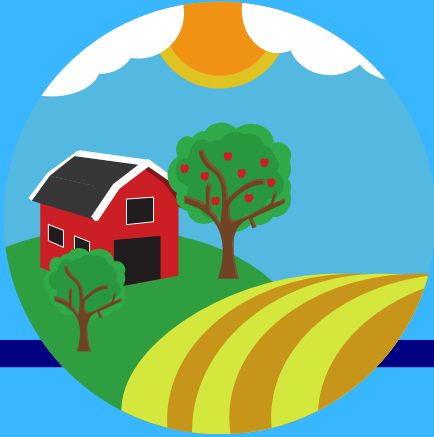


# The Life of St Vincent de Paul



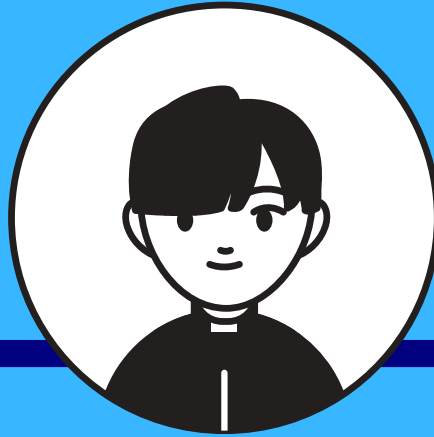
"The service of the poor  
should be preferred to  
everything else"  
St Vincent de Paul

1581



St Vincent de Paul was born in France in a place called Pouy. Vincent's family wasn't very rich and they made their living by farming.

1600



Initially Vincent wanted to be rich and powerful, he wanted to help his family by sending money back home. To do this he decided to be a priest and managed to be ordained when he was just 19 years old.

1605-1608



Soon after his ordination he was allegedly captured by pirates and sold into slavery. He eventually managed to get free and, after a period in Rome, found himself in Paris. These next years are where Vincent starts to feel a deep conversion to service and love.

1617



He eventually found himself with a rich family called the de Gondi's, it is here where he hears a dying man's confession. The dying man tells Vincent everything, things he had not told another soul, things he is ashamed of. Afterwards the man feels so relieved to have been forgiven that he gathers his family around him and makes his sins known to them as well.

25 January



Vincent is deeply affected by this; he realises the need for confession and gives a series of sermons around the area guiding people towards the sacrament. This is the start of the Congregation of the Mission or the Vincentian Fathers, an order of priests founded by Vincent.

1617 onwards



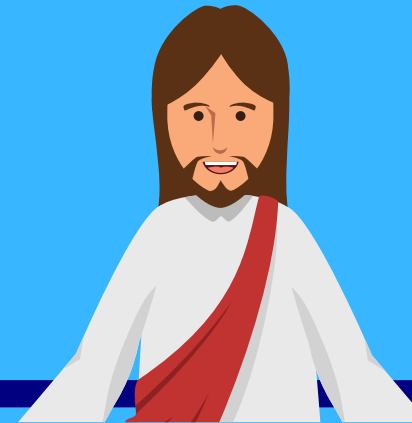
Vincent and his followers went on to minister to the poor, supporting them spiritually and then also with food, clothes and medicine.

1633



Later on, Vincent, with St Louise de Marillac, helps start an order of religious women called the Daughters of Charity. His mission also reaches other countries such as Poland and Algeria.

1660



Eventually after many years of love and service, he utters the name of Jesus and passes away.



YoungVincentiansEW



[svp.org.uk/mini-vinnies](https://svp.org.uk/mini-vinnies)



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