



# YOUNG SVP

Northern Region  
Newsletter 19/20





Welcome everyone to the latest edition of the Young SVP Northern Region Newsletter.

It has been a year in which many new Conferences have been formed and the established Conferences have gone from strength to strength but all, old and new, have been working hard to make a difference within their communities. Unfortunately, we didn't get to finish the year how we all expected. But that doesn't mean we can't celebrate the achievements and fun had this year.

This newsletter will showcase some of the highlights from the 19/20 academic year.

We hope you enjoy and maybe you can get a little inspiration from all that has happened this year.



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# THANKYOU

NIAMH MULHOLLAND - YOUTH  
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER - NORTH

**Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things! - Pope Francis**

The young people involved with Young SVP are certainly not burying their talents. To all of the Young SVP members, I just want to take this opportunity to speak to you directly and express how impressed I have been with each and every one of you this year. You have demonstrated commitment, compassion and have worked hard to make a difference within your communities. Whether your group had 30 or 3 members, each and every group has made an impact on the lives of those struggling and currently need a little extra support.

To all of the teachers and other members of staff that have helped and supported the young people throughout the year, thank you. Your groups couldn't run without you and the support and encouragement you have given them throughout the year, it has been invaluable.

Here's to another brilliant year in 20/21!!



# Young SVP @ St Patrick's College Dungannon



Being offered the option to take part in the Young SVP in my school's enrichment programme give me the hope of bringing to light the issues that affect our community and often are not talked about. I was elected President of the our SVP Youth Conference by my peers, which gave me the opportunity to investigate issues and educate the pupils on the issues that affect people locally, nationally and internationally.

Our group engaged in many different activities over the academic year. We explored prejudices surrounding poverty, why people believe these prejudices and how to overcome them. A local Vincentian visited the school to discuss what the local Dungannon SVP Conference does in the community.

We heard how often people were left without heat to warm their house or put food on the table, only having enough for their rent. SVP are a lifeline to so many people who find themselves in difficult situations. This is local people helping local people, which is community in action.

Our group also organised a political debate, inviting local political parties to explain how they're tackling poverty, both locally and nationally. We explored the effects the current welfare system is causing to individuals and families within our community, with many having to resort to local foodbanks just so they could put food on the table due to waiting weeks for a payment. We challenged local politicians to help create a world which tries to eradicate poverty and inequality.

It was a pleasure to host a stall at our school's Christmas fayre in December. We collected unwanted toys from pupils and staff, raising both funds and awareness for SVP in the process which turned out to be a great success. We raised money for SVP but also raised the profile of our work as young Vincentians.



Our school annually takes part in SVP's appeal for hampers to support the most vulnerable in our community. This year we donated 46 hampers to SVP, all being distributed locally. It was great to see our school community come together as one to support the most vulnerable in our community.

We had also planned a fun day for pupils and staff consisting of dodgeball, with staff Vs students, while raising the issue of homelessness within our society and how widespread it is. The island of Ireland has over 25,000 homeless. Unfortunately, this event never took place due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, when life resumes we can continue where we left off and educate the pupils and staff about the great work that is carried out by SVP and how we can both contribute and raise awareness on the issues that cause pain and suffering in our communities, and ways to overcome them.

I was delighted to be elected President of Young Saint Vincent De Paul group by my peers. I will no doubt continue to be conscious of and an advocate for social in justice in Ireland and abroad when I leave school this year. Now more than ever, we need to be united. The crisis we currently find ourselves in has shown the best in people and what we can achieve when we come together as one.



Niall Daly  
St Patrick's College  
Dungannon



# The Season Of Goodwill

Christmas is a time of year when our Young SVP groups focus on those that are in need in their community. They collect toys and hampers and raise money to help SVP ease the burden that can be felt by many families.



**St Patrick's Academy, Lisburn**



**St Mary's CBGS, Belfast**



**Loreto Grammar School, Omagh**





**St Malachy's College, Belfast**



**St Catherine's, Armagh**



**St Patrick's College, Dungannon**



**St Patrick's Grammar, Armagh**



**St Ronan's College, Lurgan**



**Blessed Trinity College, Belfast**



## Stuff a Bus – St Malachy's get in the Christmas spirit.



Members of the Young SVP Conference from St Malachy's College, Belfast volunteered their time to support our Stuff a Bus Appeal Launch at Shane Retail Park on Wednesday 18th December 2019. After spending the months leading up to Christmas collecting toys and creating dozens of food hampers to donate to their local SVP Conference, the St Malachy's students decided they wanted to give of their time as well. The enthusiastic bunch worked hard collecting donations from the public and organising all the toys.

The students were so inspired by the generosity of everyone involved and the amount of families that would be helped, that they headed over the Smyth's Toys to buy even more toys. Even though the weather was not on their side this never dampened their spirits.

We would like to thank all the Young SVP Conferences that helped their schools to organise hamper and toy collections and all those other supporter schools that gave so generously.

# 1st Armagh Scouts

Scouting Ireland are an organisation that value the 'physical, intellectual, character, emotional, social and spiritual development of young people' (Scouting Ireland) and so I knew they would be a great fit for the Young SVP programme. This is the first time that Young SVP and Scouting Ireland (North) have collaborated and it was a great success.

I visited the Scouts every two weeks on a Tuesday and a Sunday evening and was always struck by how inquisitive and thoughtful each group of young people were, not to mention full of energy and enthusiasm.

Each group took part in four social justice workshops and also planned their own research and fundraising project. Every patrol (group) decided on a charity or issue/cause that meant something to them and this led to such a variety of causes including education, gender equality and climate change (to name a few). Every week these groups worked on their plans and the big finale was to come with a collective bun sale and information day on 4th April.

This wasn't meant to be, as with many gatherings in March and April 2020 but the work and heart that these groups still made an impact and hopefully one day soon their special day will go ahead.

Well done 1st Armagh Scouts!!



# A time to reflect



We have all experienced so many different emotions as we have lived through one of the biggest challenges of our lives. This space is to help take a minute to reflect.

“Unless someone like you  
cares a whole awful lot,  
nothing is going to get  
better. It’s not.”

– Dr. Seuss

“Even the darkest night  
will end and the sun will  
rise.”

—Les Misérables by  
Victor Hugo

**Peace of heart – without  
it, no good can make us  
happy. With it, every  
trial, even the approach  
of death, can be borne.**

– Blessed Frederic

•zanam

# Inbox of a student during lockdown



We hope you are staying safe and healthy during these unprecedented times

You are doing a great job of transitioning to on-line learning

Two weeks ago, the world as we know it was a different place

It is hard to believe that we have already made it through 3 weeks of on-line class

Here is our latest updates for volunteer needs especially pertaining to COVID-19

The test is now open.

I hope all of you are well and safe.

The password is nocheating4 (all one word)

WVU continues to closely follow the coronavirus outbreak and modify protocols and guidelines as conditions change

I am getting lots of emails about test grades

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 are encouraged to contact Student Life

I understand that you may be having issues opening the link in the week 13 folder

Hope you and your families are all doing well!

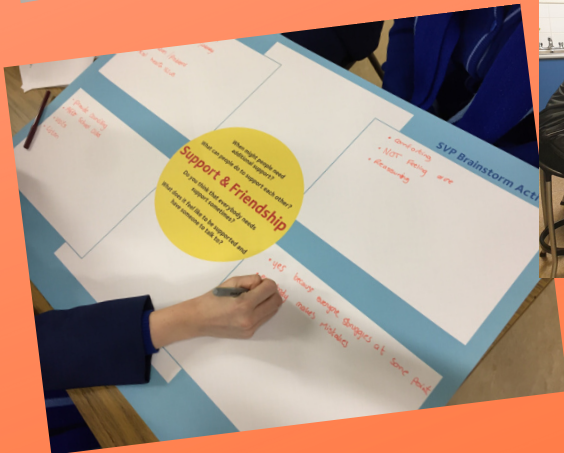
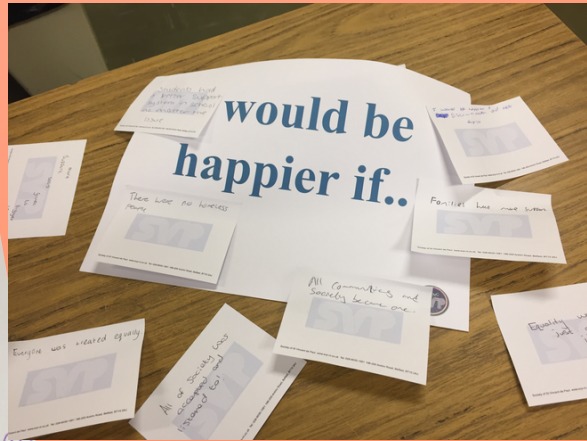
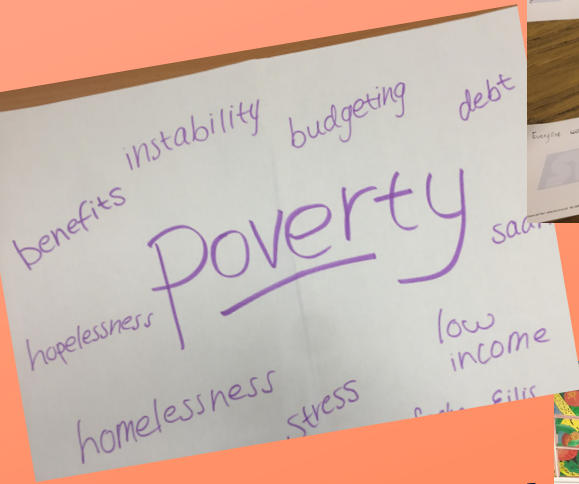
I just released the exam 3 results

We hope you are staying safe and healthy during these unprecedented times

# Workshops



This year during workshops, insightful and thoughtful discussions have taken place with Young SVP groups throughout the North.





youngsvpofficial



@Young\_SVP



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# YOUNG SVP PROGRAMME

## Programme Outline:

*Book Now!*

Introduction to SVP & Social Justice

Taking Effective Social Action

FREE Social Justice Workshops

Mid-Action Catch up

Review and Reflection Workshop

### Free Social Justice Workshops

- Poverty and the Cost of Living
- Power and Society
- Human Rights
- Social Justice and Equality
- Sustainable Fashion
- Climate Justice and Energy Poverty





# Interview with a Vincent's Volunteer

**Name: Sarah Clarke**

**Shop Location: Dairyfarm**

**Can you describe your role within Vincent's?**

Working on the shop floor and chatting with customers.

**Why did you decide to volunteer with Vincent's?**

Was looking to get into volunteering and the Vincent's shop was closest to where I live. Easy to get to.

**What does being part of SVP mean to you?**

SVP is a very important charity to me as it has helped members of my family in the past. It is because of this I know how much stress and pressure SVP can help relieve when they give their help to people in the community. I love being part of SVP knowing that I am helping to contribute to this.

**What motivated you to become a volunteer?**

I was looking for something new to do to get me out of the house, plus I wanted to learn skills to help me gain experience for a job when needed.

**What do you enjoy the most about your role?**

The craic. The people I work with are brilliant and we have a gag. Also the customers are up for a laugh and don't hold back on the banter. Everyone makes the job worthwhile.





# VINCENT'S

SUPPORTING THE WORK OF **SVP** THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL 

There are 32 Vincent's shops in the North.  
Where is your closest shop?



The profits generated from the charity shops, some of which also supply furniture, are recycled into local Conferences around Ireland to support those in need.

# £30 billion

Clothes discarded in one year in the UK would fill **Wembley Stadium**

Vincent's are an ethical and sustainable alternative to fast fashion and throwaway culture.

Fast fashion isn't

**FREE.**

Someone,  
somewhere,  
is paying.

—  
LUCY SIEGLE

**Blessed Trinity, Belfast**

**St Ronan's, Lurgan**

**Loreto Grammar, Omagh**

**Dominican College, Fortwilliam**

**Sacred Heart, Newry**

**St Catherine's, Armagh**

**1st Armagh Scouts**

**Well done for all your  
hard work this year!  
Young SVP (North)**

**St Malachy's, Belfast**

**St Mary's CBS, Belfast**

**St Pius X, Magherafelt**

**St Patrick's College, Dungannon**

**St Patrick's, Armagh**

**St Patrick's, Downpatrick**

**St Columbanus, Bangor**

**Lismore Comprehensive, Craigavon**



