



Society of St.Vincent de Paul

# YEARBOOK 2024



**180 Years**  
1844-2024



Changing  
Times  
**Continuing  
Compassion**

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## Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) was established in Ireland 180 years ago in 1844. It is the largest voluntary charitable organisation in Ireland.

Our focus is on a practical approach to dealing with poverty, alleviating its effects on individuals and families through working primarily in person-to-person contact by a unique system of home visitation and seeking to achieve social justice and equality of opportunity for all citizens.

The Society promotes community self-sufficiency, enabling people to help themselves. Any assistance offered by the Society is given in a non-judgmental spirit, based on the needs of the individual or family seeking help.

The Society respects the dignity of those who contact us, offering assistance and advice when sought, maintaining their dignity while assisting them towards long-term self-sufficiency in a relationship of friendship, trust and confidentiality.

*“Yours must be a work of love,  
of kindness; you must give of  
your talents and yourselves”*

– Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

## Our Mission and Ethos

SVP is a Christian voluntary organisation, working with people experiencing poverty and disadvantage. We are involved in a diverse range of activities characterised by:



### Support and Friendship

Through person-to-person contact, we are committed to respecting the dignity of those we assist and fostering self-respect. We assure confidentiality at all times and endeavour to establish relationships based on trust and friendship.



### Promoting Self-sufficiency

It is not enough to promote short-term material support. Those we assist are also helped to achieve self-sufficiency in the longer term and the sense of self-worth this provides. When problems are beyond our competencies, we enlist the support of specialist help.



### Working for Social Justice

We are committed to identifying the root cause of poverty and social exclusion and, in solidarity with the disadvantaged and those living in poverty, to advocate and work for the changes required to create a more just and caring society.

# How SVP Responds



## How SVP Helps in the Northern Region



SVP expenditure in 2023/24 was  
**£5,000,000**

in the Northern Region

**Key areas of expenditure:**

Electricity / Food / Gas  
Oil / Household goods



**28** shops across the Northern Region



**SVP Membership:**  
**Over 700 members** across the Northern Region

# A Year of Hope

by Fr Perry Gildea C.M.

During the Christmas period of 2024 and at the New Year of 2025, Pope Francis formally opened a number of Holy Doors in each of the Major Basilicas and a prison. The solemn opening of these doors was an introduction to this Year of Jubilee. The solemn opening of the doors is an invitation to enter the sacred space within and in this Jubilee Year to find reasons for hope. Given the tragic state of the world at the present time, reasons for finding hope are truly necessary. The fragile ceasefire in Gaza is one such sign. But it is so fragile that many are holding their breath, as anything could break the truce and violence on a catastrophic scale could break out again.

The Pope reminds us that the concept of a Jubilee Year was developed in ancient Judaism. It was a year when slaves were freed, debts were written off, it was a year of freedom and reconciliation. This tradition was introduced many centuries ago into the Church. It became a year of reconciliation and penance and forgiveness and was celebrated as a Holy Year every twenty-five years.

In an elaborate discourse, Pope Francis outlines the need for hope in the lives of all. People are called to be signs of hope for others. "During the Holy Year we are called to be signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardship of any kind." He singles out prisoners, the sick and the disabled, young people without hope, migrants, the elderly, (especially grandparents), and especially the poor.

"I ask with all my heart that hope be granted to the billions of the poor, who often lack the essential of life. Before the constant tide of new forms of impoverishment, we can easily grow inured or resigned. ... Each day we meet people who are poor or impoverished; they may even be our next-door neighbours. Often, they are homeless or lack sufficient food for the day. They suffer from exclusion and indifference on the part of the many."

This paragraph reminds us that in your work for those living in poverty who come to St. Vincent de Paul for help, you are signs of hope. "We are also reminded that we are signs of hope not for some simple philanthropic vision, but because, as Christians, our Christian life is lived out in faith, hope and charity. These are divine gifts flowing from the never-ending love poured out on us by God, won for us by the life and death of Christ, poured into our lives to be shared with our needy brothers and sisters."

A final word from Pope Francis: –

**"We aspire to happiness that is definitely found in the one thing that can bring us fulfilment, which is love. ... I will live forever in the love that does not disappoint, the love from which nothing can ever separate me. Let us listen again to the words of the Apostle: 'I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor heights, nor depths, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus Our Lord.'"**

(Rom 8 38–39)



Rose McGowan

# Renewing Our Vincentian Promise

Rose McGowan, St. Vincent de Paul National President, reflects on Members' Day in the Dublin Convention Centre in April where we celebrated our 180th anniversary.

Almost 1,000 members, volunteers and staff attended the event. For those who were unable to attend on the day I hope that this gives you a good flavour of the day.

For me the opportunity to renew our Vincentian Promise alongside the hundreds of members who participated in the Mass of Thanksgiving was an occasion to treasure.

The Renewal of our Vincentian Promise reminds us that by practicing works of mercy we have made a commitment to spread Christ's commandment of love. It emphasises the spirit of love and hope in which we carry out our work. The Vincentian Promise also reminds us of the importance of listening with respect to those who seek our help and to respond to their needs, both spiritual and material.

It then calls on us to help the Society flourish and grow in order to extend the network of charity and social justice to embrace the whole world.

In keeping with our Vincentian Promise we offer compassion and empathy to those in need, addressing their challenges with discretion, confidentiality, and a respectful, non-judgmental attitude.

Saturday 20 April was indeed a proud day for all members as it marked celebrating 180 years of dedicated service in Ireland. It was truly a wonderful experience.



The Renewal of our Vincentian Promises reminds us that by practicing works of mercy we have made a commitment to spread Christ's commandment of love. It emphasises the spirit of love and hope in which we carry out our work.

An uplifting element of the day was the participation of so many young people who are part of the Young SVP programme. Their enthusiasm for the Society is infectious. While young people are often referred to as the future, we must recognise they are also the present. Their involvement is crucial, as highlighted by their inspiring contribution on 20th April.

While celebrating 180 years of the Society in Ireland the theme of the day: 'Changing Times – Continuing Compassion' was carefully chosen to reflect the present and future. Compassion is a powerful word, embodying the essence of our approach. In keeping with our Vincentian Promise we offer compassion and empathy to those in need, addressing their challenges with discretion, confidentiality, and a respectful, non-judgmental attitude.

Having celebrated 180 years of work with pride, it is now time to look forward. Our Journeying Together 2024–2028 programme, now in motion, will serve as our roadmap as we strengthen our organisation in terms of governance, risk, and compliance. Crucially the strategy focuses on securing membership for the future through recruitment, training, and retention.

While adhering to the legal and regulatory considerations introduced by the Charities Regulator, we will continue supporting those in need to the best of our ability, always striving to uphold the reputation of our Society.

With 250,000 calls for assistance in 2023, our services are needed now more than ever.

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



# Welcome

from Regional President, Mary Waide

As I write this foreword, I find myself reflecting on all that has been achieved for The Society of St. Vincent de Paul during my term as Regional President for the Northern Region, which concludes in mid 2025. It has been a period filled with meaningful moments and, while I celebrate the highlights accomplished, I look forward with hope for what lies ahead.



Over the past five years, I have had the absolute privilege of meeting so many members and deepening our shared Vincentian spirit of friendship. One of the most memorable experiences was celebrating 180 years of SVP in Ireland, where I joined nearly 1,000 SVP members under the theme 'Changing Times – Continuing Compassion' in Dublin's Convention Centre for a day of commemoration. Meeting the International President, Jose Manuel Buergo Gomez, and members from across the world underscored the Society's far-reaching impact.

The formal programme commenced with an inspiring introduction by Rose McGowan, SVP's National President, who emphasised the Society's rich history, mission, and the challenges ahead. Former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, delivered a powerful keynote address on the climate crisis and social injustices. I was reminded that we are all charged with our shared responsibility to care of this world which is God's creation. Our Vincent's shops are a testament to this mission, as our Conference members, shop staff and volunteers, work together to promote sustainability for our community and future generations.

Friendships and collaborations stretch across the Society, and I am grateful for the relationships I have built with the National Management Council (NMC), inspired by Rose McGowan and dedicated members throughout Ireland.

One particularly humbling moment during my term was receiving the Maundy coins at the Maundy Service in Windsor, a powerful reminder that we should be responsive and ask Jesus to help us to answer the call every Christian receives, to seek and to find those who are forgotten and to bring His love to the suffering and deprived.

In our world, many feel unloved and undervalued, and poverty takes many forms – hunger, cold, loneliness, disability, unemployment, addiction, and the inability to cope with life's

challenges. Our members selflessly give their time and energy every day to meet these needs, and while we are deeply grateful for their dedication, we must also look to the future. I would urge anyone reading this message to consider offering just one hour of their time each week to join the Vincentian family and make a difference in the lives of others.

At the same time, we must recognise our own needs. As well as caring graciously for others, we must also ensure we support and nurture ourselves and our Conference brothers and sisters.

It has been a pleasure to welcome singer-songwriter Malachi Cush to SVP as the first Ambassador for SVP in the Northern Region. His genuine passion for the Society has brought something truly special to our work, and his performance at our Members' Day was a highlight of my tenure.

Following the launch of 'Beyond Breaking Point' in 2023, I am proud of the strides we have made in Social Justice. A year later, welcoming Under Secretary of State Fleur Anderson MP to our Regional Office provided a valuable opportunity to highlight the deep struggles faced by so many across the Region.

Futureproofing the Society has been another priority during my term, and I am pleased that we have made meaningful progress by restructuring SVP to streamline and strengthen our Areas and Conferences for the years to come.

I would also like to congratulate our Ballymena and Portadown shops on celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2024, a testament to the strong connections between our Conferences and retail initiatives.

Throughout my presidency, I have been fortunate to work alongside an exceptional team at Regional Office. Pauline and her team have been a joy, and our board members have demonstrated unwavering dedication. Their enthusiasm has been instrumental in supporting my role.

I am also deeply grateful for the support of Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh, who has attended various SVP events, most recently when I joined him at Malachi's 'Christmas at the Cathedral' in Armagh. Additionally, I appreciate the presence of Most Reverend Alan McGuckian SJ, who presided over our St. Vincent de Paul Feast Day Mass in September.

To all our members who, inspired by St. Vincent de Paul, continue the legacy of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam by extending friendship and support – thank you. Your work changes lives, and I am honoured to have served as your Regional President for the past five years.

**As my term comes to an end, I remain extremely proud of what we have achieved together. Thank you for your continued support, and may God bless you all.**



# St. Vincent de Paul Regional Board



SVP Regional Board pictured with SVP Regional Ambassador Malachi Cush.



**Mary Waide**  
**Regional President for the Northern Region**

E: [mary.waide@svpni.co.uk](mailto:mary.waide@svpni.co.uk)

Mary Waide has been Regional President for the last five years (her term will end in mid 2025). A member of SVP Blessed Virgin Conference in Ballymena for over 20 years, Mary has had the privilege and experience of working in a very large vibrant and active Conference with dedicated and committed members. On joining, she felt the warmth of the spirit of the Vincentian Family, which is so important in our work. Mary believes everyone goes into a meeting as equals. There is no hierarchy in SVP as everyone simply has different responsibilities.



**Fr Perry**  
**Spiritual Advisor**

E: [perrygildea@gmail.com](mailto:perrygildea@gmail.com)

Fr Perry is the Spiritual Advisor for the Northern Region. He has a Doctorate in Moral and Pastoral Theology from the Alphonsianum in Rome and a Masters in Liturgical Studies from Notre Dame, USA. Fr Perry formerly lectured in All Hallows College, Dublin, and in St Mary's College, Twickenham. He has extensive experience as a Spiritual Director and University Chaplain as well as having served as a Parish Priest in London. Fr Perry is a member of the Adult Faith Development team at Drumalis, developing and delivering programmes in collaboration with St Mary's University College, Belfast.



**Anne Irwin**  
**Regional Vice President**

E: [nirc.vp2@svpni.co.uk](mailto:nirc.vp2@svpni.co.uk)

A friend invited Anne to become a volunteer of her local Conference over 20 years ago. She realised there was a level of poverty that she hadn't been aware of, prior to becoming a volunteer, and felt good giving something back to society by spending a couple of hours a week visiting those in need while providing food, electricity, coal etc.



**Henry O'Loan**  
**Regional Vice President**

E: [nirc.vp1@svpni.co.uk](mailto:nirc.vp1@svpni.co.uk)

Henry joined St Mary's Glenravel on 1 January 2007 and became President of St Mary's Glenravel in January 2014. He was also elected as Area President for Mid Antrim in 2017. He is interested in adult faith development having joined the Adult Faith Development Pathways programme in Drumalis Retreat Centre in 2006 which he found engaged him in living his faith as a true Christian. It has enabled Henry to be a better visible sign of Christ and to be able to bear witness to his boundless love.



**Patrick Friel**  
**Regional Treasurer**

E: [nirc.treasurer@svpni.co.uk](mailto:nirc.treasurer@svpni.co.uk)

Regional Treasurer, Patrick joined SVP after attending an inaugural meeting in the new Christ the King Chapel in Strathroy, Omagh, which was opened in 1979 to serve a large new housing estate nearby. An old dormant Conference was resurrected in the Parish of Knockmoyle and Patrick is still a member of that Conference. He has been President, Treasurer and Area President in Omagh Area where there are eight Conferences and two successful shops. Patrick also acted as Regional President during 2020.



**Anne McLarnon**  
**Chair of Regional Retail Committee**

E: [regionalretailrep@svpni.co.uk](mailto:regionalretailrep@svpni.co.uk)

Just before she retired in 2015, Anne joined SVP. She wanted to help as she was aware of hardships many face from her previous work and chose SVP because of its Christian ethos. Early in 2017, Anne was invited to be Secretary of the Area Council, which was a great learning experience. North Down & Ards is a very active Area with six Visitation Conferences making it easier to keep in touch. The Conferences are always busy and the shops in Kircubbin are busy, generating a great sense of community in the town and an Area hub for people dropping in to browse and chat. Anne is currently Chair of the Regional Retail Committee.

# St. Vincent de Paul Regional Staff



SVP Regional Staff pictured with SVP Regional President Mary Waide.



**Pauline Brown**  
**Regional Manager**

T: 028 9075 0150  
E: [pauline.brown@svpni.co.uk](mailto:pauline.brown@svpni.co.uk)

Pauline manages the Regional staff team and supports the Regional President, Board and Council. She is responsible, along with the Regional Board, for the strategic management of the Region including, people, finances, property and projects. Pauline also supports and provides member guidance and development. She is responsible for media, networking, lobbying and the development of external relationships.



**Colm Crummey**  
**Regional Accountant  
& Treasurer Support**

T: 028 9075 0155  
E: [colm.crummey@svpni.co.uk](mailto:colm.crummey@svpni.co.uk)

Colm supports the Regional Manager, Regional Treasurer and Head of Finance & Shared Services. He is responsible for Regional Office accounting and payroll. Colm prepares budgets, financial analysis and forecasts and he reports to the Regional Board and Council on all regional balances. Colm assists in capital projects, property administration and ensures legal compliance in line with charity regulations.



**Ciaran Liggett**  
**Special Works & Treasurer Support Officer**

T: 028 9075 0156  
E: [agrosso.support@svpni.co.uk](mailto:agrosso.support@svpni.co.uk)

Ciaran is responsible for Treasurer Training and provides Agresso Support to all Treasurers across the Region. He also processes all annual financial returns and quarterly bank balances and account information providing a report to the Regional Treasurer. Ciaran administers the Regional Oil Stamps Scheme and manages the Gift Aid, credit card donations, Blue Envelopes and all fundraising campaigns.



**Anne Crossan**  
**Regional Retail Manager**

T: 028 9075 0153  
E: [anne.crossan@svpni.co.uk](mailto:anne.crossan@svpni.co.uk)

Anne is responsible for business development for retail. She delivers on the National Retail Strategy and oversees operations of all Vincent's shops within the Region. Anne manages the teams of shop staff and volunteers. She is also responsible for stock rotation, recycling, customer service and satisfaction.

### Membership Support Officers

The Membership Support Officers provide support on a range of membership matters. These include processing new member applications, AccessNI checks and organising training. They also support Area Presidents in their role on quality assurance, member compliance, record keeping, and data cleansing on CRM, recruitment and retention of volunteers.

#### Christine Gaston

T: 028 9075 0151  
E: [christine.gaston@svpni.co.uk](mailto:christine.gaston@svpni.co.uk)

Christine works with Area Presidents in Derry City, Mid Antrim, Mid Ulster, North Belfast, North Derry, North Antrim and North East Derry, South and East Belfast and West Belfast.



**Aisleain Reynolds**

T: 028 9075 0159  
E: [aisleain.reynolds@svpni.co.uk](mailto:aisleain.reynolds@svpni.co.uk)

Aisleain works with Area Presidents in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, East Down, East Tyrone, Fermanagh, Kilmegan, Newry and Mourne, North Down & Ards, and Omagh and Strabane.

### Information Support Officers

The Information Support Officers manage the referrals on a daily basis and provide administrative and technical support to members. They are responsible for the CRM database within the Region. Both Thomas and Mary provide support to the Region as a whole and manage the stocks and supplies for Regional Office.



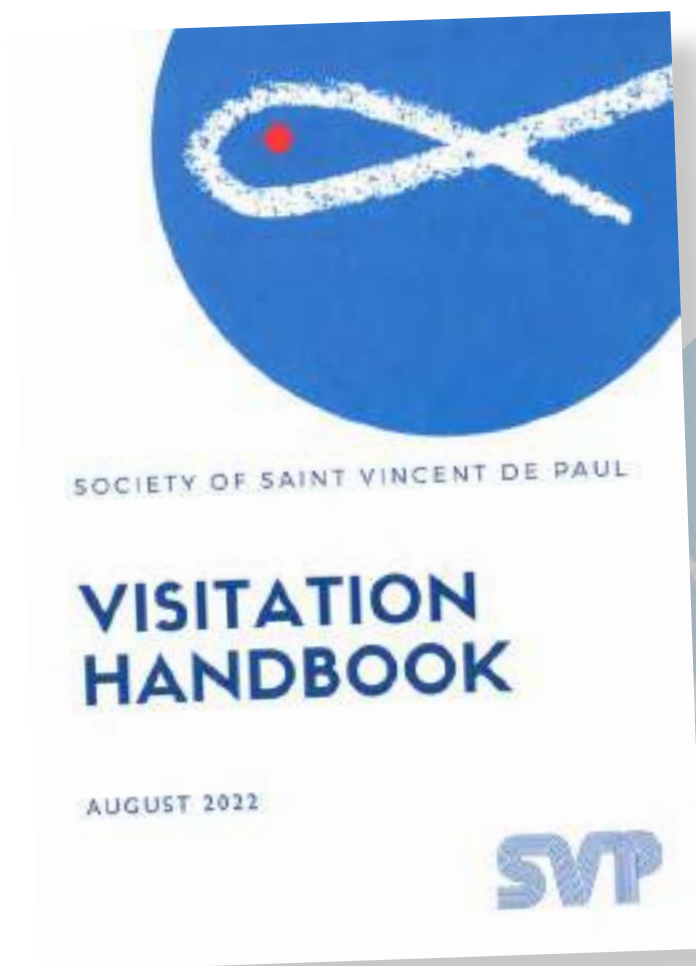
**Thomas Reilly**

T: 028 9035 1561 / 028 9075 0162  
E: [thomas.reilly@svpni.co.uk](mailto:thomas.reilly@svpni.co.uk)



**Mary McCaughey**

T: 028 9035 1561 / 028 9075 0158  
E: [mary.mccaughey@svpni.co.uk](mailto:mary.mccaughey@svpni.co.uk)



## Home Visitation Handbook

The Visitation Handbook is a complete guide for all members that sets out best practice for providing support to those we visit in their homes.

As we know, many individuals and families are facing great hardship and the content of the Handbook enables members to carry out their role in a safe manner.

The care and safety of SVP members is paramount at all times. Household situations can be challenging when visiting and some environments are difficult.

By following the guidance on assessing risks prior to or during a visit, the Society reminds members that they should never place themselves in a position of harm.

Please refer to page 29 of the Handbook for further information.

Other contents include:

- Role descriptions
- Best practice in quality visitation
- Assessment of need
- Care and safety of members

As Rose McGowan, National President states, in her introduction to the Handbook:

**“The Handbook is for both new and existing SVP members and, in the spirit of Vincentian fraternity, shares experience from SVP Conferences and makes clear our responsibilities as volunteers assisting people in Ireland.”**



# GDPR

What does GDPR mean to the work I do for SVP?

## The 7 Principles



## GDPR – The General Data Protection Regulation

GDPR is an EU Regulation that came into law in May 2018. All organisations must comply with the 7 Principles of GDPR.

The purpose of this guide is to provide practical guidelines for members and volunteers to manage the personal data of the people they are assisting in a GDPR compliant manner.

Members and volunteers who gather and process personal data are doing so on behalf of SVP and must comply with SVP's data management procedures in order to avoid breaches of the legislation.

Being compliant with the regulation will protect the people the Society serves as well as the reputation of the Society.

The personal data which SVP processes relates to the clients, staff, members and their families, as well as visitors to SVP premises and those who provide services to SVP.

The guide outlines further information for handling personal information, what to do with Conference minutes, how to safely store and retain records.

**Further information and copies of the booklet are available from Regional Office.**



# SVP Safeguarding in Home Visitation

## - Northern Region

SVP is committed to creating a safe, healthy and inclusive environment for everyone we assist, particularly the children, young people and adults at risk/in need of protection.

**SVP home visitation members have a vital role in helping vulnerable groups in the community.**



### What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is preventative action to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and adults at risk/adults in need of protection. Safeguarding is an essential part of quality home visitation. It also provides information in case an SVP member comes across a concern.

### Who is a child?

A child is any person under the age of 18.

### Who is an adult at risk?

In Northern Ireland an 'adult at risk of harm' is a person aged 18 or over whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased by their (a) personal circumstances, and/or (b) life circumstances.

### Who is an adult in need of protection?

An 'adult in need of protection' is a person aged 18 or over whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased by their (a) personal circumstances, and/or (b) life circumstances, and (c) who is unable to protect their own wellbeing, property, assets, rights or other interests.

### What is abuse?

Abuse is a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to another individual or violates their human or civil rights.

### What are these types of abuse?

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Financial
- Exploitation
- Neglect
- Institutional

### What can SVP members do if they have concerns about abuse?

It is important that everyone in SVP is aware that the person who first encounters a case of alleged abuse is not responsible for deciding whether or not actual abuse has occurred.

**SVP's role is not to investigate or form our own conclusions but to follow the SVP Safeguarding Policy – record, report and seek advice.**



# SVP Safeguarding Reporting

## Concern Arises

### Concern may arise from

- A disclosure of harm or abuse
- An observed incident of harm or abuse
- A suspicion of harm or abuse

## Action

- Ensure the **safety** of the child/adult that you have a concern about.
- If the person is in **immediate danger** report to the Health Trust or Police as appropriate.
- **Record** your concern in writing and **report** to the Designated Liaison Person without delay.
- Maintain **confidentiality** at all times.

### SVP Northern Region Safeguarding Officer (Designated Liaison)

Pauline Brown, SVP Regional Manager

T: 028 9075 0150 / 07921 876230

See [www.svp.ie/safeguarding](http://www.svp.ie/safeguarding) for more information

# Our Members – Our Greatest Strength

## Volunteering Opportunities



Offering a little help at the right time can give people hope for the future

**Our greatest strength  
is our members**

*"I would tell any perspective member they will get more out of volunteering than they will ever put in!"*

SVP Member, George from Belfast

To find out how you can help in your community, register online at: [www.svp.ie](http://www.svp.ie)

Tel: 028 9035 1561 or Email: [info@svpni.co.uk](mailto:info@svpni.co.uk)



**If you would like to join SVP**  
call 028 9035 1561 or email [info@svpni.co.uk](mailto:info@svpni.co.uk)



# The Role of an Area President

## What is the Purpose of an Area President?

An Area President provides support and guidance to the Regional President and Conferences in quality Home Visitation and all other activities, in accordance with the ethos and vision of the Society. An Area President is part of the Regional Council which is the decision making body of the Region.

### An Area President should be:

- A member of a Conference for a minimum of two years
- Willing to step down from officer role of own Conference
- Willing to visit Conferences regularly

### An Area President should:

- Embrace and promote the ethos of the Society
- Have good leadership skills
- Have good communication skills



## Area President Spotlight

### Stephen Carlin

Castleberg is my hometown and caring for people in my local area drew me to join SVP.

I joined SVP in March 2020 and I am affiliated to St Patrick's Castleberg Conference.

Previously I had been involved in voluntary projects that took me to Fagaras in Romania; Knock, County Mayo; and Dublin; but this was different.

I wouldn't turn back now to just being the person who drops their money in the box at the Chapel door and believe me we need every one of them. Their generosity is endless.

But I can't explain the feeling you get lying down at night realising the assistance you handed out to families who are struggling in whatever situation they found themselves in. The return visits that you do in extreme cases and watch how people can lift themselves out of situations with a little kindness and support. It's amazing.

SVP is a great organisation. You help everyone regardless of who or what they are. You encounter

**"...watching how people can lift themselves out of situations with a little kindness and support. It's amazing."**

all classes of people, young, old, locals and people who have come here in search of a better future from far off lands. Yes, even in Castleberg there are families from Poland, Hungary, Lithuania, India, Sri Lanka and The Philippines.

Plus, SVP is one big family whether it's at Conference, Area or Regional level, the members are all so keen to listen and help one another in their encounters along the way.

I am only starting out in this role as Area President and getting to grips with it but I see membership numbers as one of the key issues at present. In the Strabane Area a lot of the members have all been there for a while and we are all very grateful to them for their dedication but with no new blood coming through to help we are going to struggle badly in the near future. So my hope is that we can attract good people that are willing to give a few precious hours a week to relieve this problem.



## Area President Spotlight



### Roisin Doherty

I joined SVP in September 2012 and have been Area President since May 2024.

I was encouraged to join SVP by my priest at the time, Fr Sheehan, as Conference numbers were low.

I was initially enthused by the prospect of home visitation as I felt that it was important to have contact with people and not just be someone providing help from the other end of the phone.

I believe it's important to listen to people, let them talk about their problems and go beyond arranging financial help. Whilst this is important sometimes people need more and we can signpost them as well. Offering a sense of hope to people who may have nowhere else to turn is the best thing we can do.

*"Offering a sense of hope to people who may have nowhere else to turn is the best thing we can do."*

I value my membership and the Conference meets once a fortnight. I am part of a very good SVP Conference in Portrush and I hope that during my time as Area President I will make the members feel valued and ensure that they know they have a place in the Society.

We have a lovely group of people in our area and I love making a difference as my family has had a long association with SVP and it's nice to carry on the legacy.

I love the amazing beaches and scenery that I see every day while living on the north coast, where I go walking on the beach or in the forest with my seven dogs.

I also enjoy relaxing with Thai Chi and in the Parish there is a lovely group of friendly and helpful people who do a lot for each other.

# 180 Years of SVP in Ireland

SVP members from the Northern Region travelled to Dublin's Convention Centre to join SVP members from around the world in celebrating 180 years of SVP in Ireland.



The First Minister **Michelle O'Neill** MLA and deputy First Minister **Emma Little-Pengelly** MLA sent video messages of support which were played to the almost 1,000 people in attendance.

New Regional Ambassador for the Northern Region, **Malachi Cush**, also sent a video message of congratulations which was well received by the audience.





When Belfast born **Mary McAleese** was President of Ireland she kindly wrote to SVP to recognise the Society's work during its 150<sup>th</sup> year. We were again very grateful to Mary for providing a letter of congratulations in recognition of the Society's 180 years in Ireland.



Among other messages of support was an email from Strangford politician, **Jim Shannon MP**.



*I have just learned that St. Vincent de Paul have celebrated their 180 years of service in Ireland.*

*This is a wonderful milestone to reach and I want to extend my congratulations and very best wishes to you on this occasion.*

*Your work in the community is deeply appreciated.*

*Kind regards*

*Jim Shannon*

**DR. MARY MCALEESE**  
**PRESIDENT OF IRELAND 1997-2011**  
**CHANCELLOR TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN**

11.04.2024

To members of the SVP Northern Region on the occasion of the 180th anniversary of the foundation of the SVP in Ireland

To arrive at this great anniversary that spans one hundred and eighty years a baton of care for the poor had to be passed from one generation to the next. Those who have taken on that baton of care and with it responsibility for the work of the SVP deserve huge respect and thanks. Each one a volunteer, each one inspired to act by a personal humanity and a decency that we should never take for granted. Because of your fidelity to the mission of the SVP hope and help has replaced despair and need in the lives of countless children, women and men. You have been the hands and heart of God's work, of the great Christian commandment, showcasing what love of neighbour and love of a stranger in need can accomplish, how it can change the course of a life, bring light into darkness and renew faith in simple goodness. In back of what you do is a reliance on the charity and generosity of others and because of the integrity of the SVP's work over eighteen decades, the public has responded year after year with the funds that keep you going and that are also a measure of the trust you have earned. Keep going. There is no let up, no day in sight when your work will be done. But in this special year, take time to be proud of all you do in the name of SVP and to be grateful for the gift of one another, working together for a great name and a great cause. Happy Anniversary!

With every good wish

*Mary McAleese*

Mary McAleese

**SVP**  
**180 Years**  
 1844-2024



**Changing Times**  
**Continuing**  
**Compassion**

# SVP Members' Day

Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the Northern Region gathered together during Volunteers' Week to celebrate 180 years of the Society in Ireland. The service that dedicated members devote to SVP and who were celebrating milestone anniversaries of volunteering were recognised at the annual Members' Day, between them having clocked up an incredible 546 years of volunteering for SVP.







This year's event provided a platform for 150 members in attendance to reflect on the achievements of SVP over the last 180 years but members also considered the escalating need throughout the Region where people living in poverty is on the rise daily.





Speaking about the annual Members' Day, Mary Waide, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, said:

"Our 180th Anniversary Members' Day provided us with an opportunity to celebrate our wonderful volunteers during Volunteers' Week. I was personally humbled to meet the volunteers who between them have clocked up 546 years of service. It is a blessing to have so many eager volunteers who give of their time to help people living in poverty throughout the Northern Region every day.

As we continue to serve in our local communities with renewed compassion, I would appeal to anyone interested in joining the Society to please do so as we aim to continue to grow SVP with likeminded volunteers who have the SVP ethos at their hearts.

Whether you have 180 minutes to spare or 180 hours, if you are interested in becoming a member of SVP, I would ask you to please consider joining today."





Speakers at Members' Day presented an overview of the history of the Society and delegates were encouraged to look after themselves as well as others while being urged to ignite their collective commitment to volunteering for the future with continued compassion.





There were lively roundtable discussions bringing innovative ideas to the table while members from the longest established SVP Conference in Enniskillen and newest serving SVP Conference in Crossmaglen, which was formed in 2023, shared their experiences with the audience during an 'On the Couch' session.





## Longest Established Conference Celebrated

Members of SVP Conference in Enniskillen, **Brendan Heuston** and **Martha Smyth**, delved into the archives to create a special display for Members' Day from the longest established Conference in the Northern Region which was established in 1848.





# 180th Anniversary Feast Day Mass



Almost 100 members of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul attended a Feast Day Mass for St. Vincent de Paul, celebrated by Most Reverend Alan McGuckian SJ, Bishop of Down and Connor, at St. Vincent de Paul Parish Church Ligoniel, in Belfast.



SVP Spiritual Advisor Fr Perry Gildea read from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew and then delivered the Homily. He reflected on the charitable legacy of St. Vincent, highlighting his mission of helping strangers in war torn places and raising much needed funds to aid the hungry and thirsty. Fr Perry emphasised how the Society founded by Blessed Frédéric Ozanam 180 years ago continues to still be very relevant today, with members visiting

people in their local communities across the Region who seek practical assistance from SVP on a daily basis.

Mary Waide, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, read from Corinthians, and board members of SVP also took part in the service with music provided by SVP Ambassador Malachi Cush.

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

**“It was a privilege to welcome Bishop McGuckian to celebrate our Feast Day Mass in this special anniversary year for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We all enjoyed the beautiful music performed by our Ambassador Malachi Cush and I would like to express my special thanks to Fr Vincent Cushnahan who hosted SVP with such warm hospitality.”**



A number of Feast Day masses around the Region celebrated St. Vincent de Paul and members were recognised for their dedicated service to St. Vincent de Paul.

**Armagh  
and  
Craigavon**



**Derry City  
Our Lady  
Longtower  
Church**







**North Belfast Area  
Holy Family Church**



# Around the Region



## Heartfelt Thanks

In 2024 **Anne Irwin** retired from her role as Area President and **Anne Smiley** retired from her role as Area Secretary in **North Antrim** and **North East Derry**. On behalf of SVP, Mary Waide, Regional President for the Northern Region, thanked them most sincerely for the dedication and commitment with which they held these roles.

## Glenravel Centenary Celebrations

Glenravel SVP Conference celebrated 100 years with a special Mass arranged by SVP Conference President **Dympna Gallagher** and celebrated by **Fr Paul Strain**.

Offertory gifts representing SVP included the original Letter of Aggregation dated 1924, SVP prayers and a wall plaque remembering the 100 years of service.

A number of dedicated members were awarded for long service with certificates presented by SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, Mary Waide.

SVP members recognised for long service included SVP Vice Regional President, **Henry O'Loan**, for 15 years service; **Siobhan McLaughlin** 18 years, **Michael Scullion** 26 years, **Eileen Kyle** 15 years, **Charles Laverty** 23 years, **Anna McIlhatton** 43 years, and **Nora McDonnell** 48 years.

Everyone enjoyed a slice of centenary cake afterwards!





# SVP Member Gatherings



## North Belfast

North Belfast Area hosted a gathering for members in Lansdowne Hotel. Mary Davis, SVP Member Support, gave a presentation and Consumer Council NI provided members with information on signs of illegal lending, saving on household bills and the healthy start programme.

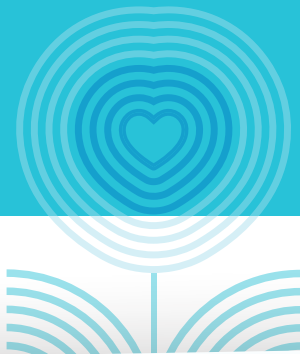


## North Down & Ards

North Down & Ards Area hosted a gathering in Clondeboye Golf Club. Speakers included representatives from Women's Aid and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust Addictions Team.

## West Belfast Members Attend Community Event

Valerie McGreevy, West Belfast Area President, is pictured with SVP member Roise McLaughlin, at the Community Health and Wellbeing Day in Brook Leisure Centre. Those attending the event stopped by to pick up leaflets, pens and notepads, and to read the information on the pop up stands. Some people took a copy of the Yearbook and some very useful contacts were made. A representative from Community Safety came to speak to members at the West Belfast Area meeting following the event.



## Welcome Donation

Members of St Mary's SVP Conference Glenravel attended a recent match at the local GAA club and received a donation of £520 being half the gate receipts. **A big thank you to everyone involved!**



## Knock Pilgrimages

A number of Conferences visited Knock for the Annual SVP Pilgrimage. **Mary Waide**, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, is pictured with SVP members from North Belfast.





### St Brigid's Primary Commemorates St. Vincent de Paul

P6 pupils at St Brigid's Primary School in Ballymena created art and commemorated the work of St. Vincent de Paul at a special assembly attended by Mary Waide, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region.



### SVP Visits Loreto College

Rosemary Devlin, President of St John's SVP Conference, and Sean McGillan, SVP Area Trainer, visited Loreto College in Coleraine to speak with two groups of Year 12 students. The students are studying a module about charities in their RE class.



# Volunteers Recognised

Throughout the year, members of SVP from across the Northern Region have been recognised in their local Area.

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

“It is an honour to recognise members celebrating a milestone year of service to SVP. On behalf of SVP I would like to express sincere gratitude to each and every one of them for their dedicated service.”



## Hannahstown Retirement

SVP Hannahstown Conference recognised two retiring members who between them have dedicated over 70 years to SVP. **Peter McAllister**, West Belfast Area Vice President, presented **Charlie** and **Geraldine Connolly** with a cross in recognition of their service. A Mass was celebrated followed by refreshments in Hannahstown Community Centre, with SVP members from Corpus Christie, Our Lady Queen of Peace, St Peter the Rock, St Joseph's Hannahstown, St Teresa's, St Peter's and Most Holy Redeemer. Members of Hannahstown Parish also wanted to say thanks to Charlie and Geraldine and presented them with flowers.



## Duneane Celebrates Long Service

Fr James O'Reilly and Maeve Cairns, President of SVP Duneane Conference, made a presentation to long term members of the Society – **Máire Berry**, **Brigid Laverty**, **Marie Laverty** and **James McMeel**. The Parish thanked them for their service to the community for over 30 years.



## Congratulations Margaret

Margaret Davidson was recently recognised by SVP Ballyholme and Donaghadee for over 25 years' service.





## Faughanvale Celebration

A presentation took place in the Drummond Hotel Ballykelly for retiring members of the **Faughanvale SVP Conference** and for long time members still remaining by Parish Priest Fr Noel McDermott.

Faughanvale retired members included **Sadie McKinney** after 48 years, **Bernie Ogilby**, having served 40 plus years, **Rita Hull BEM**, being recognised for 27 years' service and **Louis Orange** retiring after 23 years but having served over 50 years in total.

SVP members recognised but still remaining included **Celia McCloskey**, 40 plus years, and **Ellen (Nelly) Brolly**, who is celebrating 30 plus years from Mullabuoy Conference.

These are now one SVP Conference known as St Anne's & St Anthony's.



## Celebrations in Portrush

Mass was held in St Patrick's Portrush to celebrate the members in the Area who have given long service to the Society. At the tea afterwards, Mary Waide, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, presented current and former members with medals for 25, 30 and 50 years of service – congratulations to them all!



## Double Celebration for Isobel

There was a double celebration for **Isobel Gallagher** when Pat McGarrigle, President of St Michael's SVP Conference West Belfast, presented her with her certificate for 40+ years' service to St Michael SVP Conference – on the same day she celebrated her 88th birthday!



## Portglenone Members Celebrated

St Mary's SVP Conference Portglenone recognised and celebrated the service of several members for their work in the Parish.

Following Mass, celebrated by Spiritual Director Fr Joseph Rooney, Mary Waide, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, and Henry O'Loan, Regional Vice-President, presented certificates to a number of members.

**Anne Scullion**, who joined the Society in 1996, and has focused her volunteering in particular to visitation and administration.

**Bernie Agnew** joined the Society in 1991, and for 35 years she has served the people of her Area as an active member of the Conference. Bernie has a wealth of experience in visitation and invaluable local knowledge of people and families in and around the Parish.

**Brian Convery** is currently the longest serving member of St Mary's SVP Conference Portglenone, with over 68 years membership and service. Brian has been a constant in the work of the Conference over almost seven decades, and although he was not able to join the members gathered on the night, he watched at home on the Parish webcam.

**John Carey** joined the Society back in 1970 and over 55 years he has been, and continues to be, a very committed and dedicated Vincentian. John has led the work of the Conference in the role of President (3 terms) and

volunteers a considerable amount of his time to visitation willingly. John is also a member of the St Dismas Prison Visitation Conference, faithfully travelling to Magilligan every month for the past 15 years to meet with prisoners, truly living the Christian spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and our founder Blessed Frédéric Ozanam.

Speaking about being a member of SVP for 55 years, John said: "I was approached by a man after Mass one day who told me I should join but I was young, and I felt that it was just a Conference of old men! I told him 'no' and then I decided to go along as I wanted to help people and do something good in my Parish. Looking back, now that I'm older, I realise that the men in the Conference maybe weren't that old at the time after all!

John says that there were no women in the Conference when he joined 55 years ago and that his biggest achievement has been visiting Magilligan on Sundays – as it is "such a worthy cause and a great experience".

When asked about the importance of the Annual Appeal, John said: "Seeing the joy on the faces of the families we help at Christmas. I remember delivering a beautifully decorated hamper and the children's faces lighting up as they stood behind their mother at the door when we arrived. They could never have afforded a hamper like it and it really epitomised the Christmas spirit."

His biggest challenge he says has been: "Keeping up with the demand of such great need. There are so many people on benefits and it's just so difficult for people nowadays.

Recruitment of new members is a priority and John added: "I placed information in the Parish bulletin and then our Parish Priest spoke at Mass. As a result we got eight new members – seven ladies and one gent! This has been a great boost as we lost so many members who didn't return after Covid."

Speaking of the future, John said: "I think we need to consider how to encourage young people to join. The pressure is so great, especially with so many single parent families who are in need of our support."

The St Mary's SVP Conference congratulates John, Anne, Bernie and Brian, and wishes them many more years of good health and active service with SVP in Portglenone.





# The King's Award for Voluntary Service

In celebration of the outstanding work of St. Vincent de Paul volunteers, Lord Lieutenant, **Dame Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle DBE DStJ DDL (Hon QUB)**, visited Regional Office to present The King's Award for Voluntary Service.

On speaking to those attending the event, Dame Fionnuala said: "I will always welcome joyfully any opportunity that comes my way to be of service to you."

Not my words, but those of St. Vincent de Paul himself. Yet, almost 400 years after his death they still so personify the work and the power of the interventions of this most remarkable organisation and its outstanding volunteers.

I am honoured and delighted to be with you this afternoon and to present this first King's Award of 2024.

I am here because, your volunteers of St. Vincent de Paul have been found to be outstanding. Your dedication, compassion, teamwork and commitment to social justice is making a huge difference in this community. And because you are 'the friends of all those who need a friend'; what you are accomplishing is simply heroic. You touch, support and change lives for the better, without judgement or sanction, and the fact that your only criterion is need – is truly humbling. The dignity and respect that you afford to every individual, regardless of race, religion or creed allows us to know that empathy and compassion are not, in fact, luxuries but necessities. The range and scope of the work you do is clear



evidence that we should never underestimate the power of local volunteers, of all ages, delivering for local people.

It is clear that difficulties inspire and do not discourage you. Your work is the work of courage, of hope, the work of love.

The difference between hope and despair, is the difference in how the story is told. Hope, respect, dignity and social justice are simply the iteration of a passion for what is possible. And they happen when people, like you, care enough to make a difference.

St. Vincent de Paul wrote 'Charity is the cement that binds communities to God and people to one another'. I thank God for the work of this remarkable charity and its outstanding volunteers. I am honoured to present you with The King's Award for Voluntary Service."

In recognition of the award, **Mary Waide**, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, and **Anne McLarnon**, SVP Regional Board Member and Chair of the Regional Retail Committee, were invited to represent SVP at a garden party in Buckingham Palace.

## Honours Recognition for Marguerite Hull

Mary Waide, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, congratulated retired SVP member **Marguerite Hull** on her BEM for services to SVP and to the community in Eglinton. Mary said:



"On behalf of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, I would like to send heartfelt congratulations to our recently retired member, Marguerite Hull. The acknowledgement of a BEM for her services to the Society and the local community is richly deserved. It is fitting that Marguerite has been awarded in the King's birthday honours in the same year that SVP in Belfast became the first charity to receive the King's Award for Voluntary Service."



## Volunteers' Week Reception

During Volunteers' Week, **Mary Waide**, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region; **Pauline Brown**, SVP Regional Manager; and **Nicola Bothwell**, Communications Support; were invited to a Reception by Volunteer Now in Clifton House. The event recognised accredited good practice in volunteer involving organisations and celebrated volunteer organisations that had received The King's Award for Voluntary Service.



# Civic Receptions

## to Celebrate 180 Years of SVP in Ireland

In celebration of SVP celebrating 180 years in Ireland, each Council in the Northern Region hosted a Civic Reception for members of the Society.





# ANNUAL APPEAL

The Annual Appeal launched in early November with the hard hitting theme that, although it can be the most wonderful time of the year, for some families at this time of year they wonder whether they will have Christmas at all.



Calls for assistance were expected to continue to rise due to the crippling increased costs associated with day to day living.

Launching the Annual Appeal in the 180th anniversary year of SVP in Ireland, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, Mary Waide, said that the Society was focused on providing help to those in our local community needing support, as they wonder whether they will be able to provide a happy Christmas for their families. Mary said: "Requests for help from families faced with impossible choices across the Region sadly continue to increase. We are recording on average 200 calls per day to our Regional Office in Belfast and we have helplines operating throughout the Region where direct calls to our members can rise to anything between 500 and 1,000 a week in winter. People are desperate. They are wondering how they will provide for their loved ones this Christmas and the most popular of the requests we receive are for help with food and energy. That's before they decorate a tree or place a gift underneath it."

"Our theme, 'The Wonder of Christmas', reflects the questions our volunteers face most regularly in the run up to Christmas; I wonder will I have enough to buy food for the Christmas dinner? I wonder if I will be able to keep the house warm? I wonder if I will be able to afford to buy a toy from the Santa list? I wonder do the kids know we are struggling? I wonder if SVP can help?"



SVP Ambassador Malachi Cush joined Mary to launch the SVP Annual Appeal. Malachi said:

“I’m proud to be the SVP Ambassador for the Northern Region. There are lots of ways that people can get involved in fundraising for SVP this Christmas. Schools, youth organisations, sports clubs and businesses can host a Christmas Jumper Day, participate in the Gift of Choice campaign and donate vouchers so families can prioritise what they need to buy with dignity. Everyone is so generous with their giving at Christmas and I know that the Society is very grateful for the continued public support across the Region during the festive season.”

Local SVP representatives in Dungannon, Charlie Rafferty and Mandy Calvin, joined children from St Patrick’s Primary School in Dungannon at the launch of the Appeal. The children also took part in videos where they were interviewed by Malachi about what Christmas means to them. These videos were shared on social media to promote the Appeal.

This year, marketing of the Annual Appeal included outdoor advertising with a banner installed on Regional Office seen by thousands of people every day throughout the month of December. A digital advertising campaign also drew attention of people travelling across Belfast.



Mary added: “SVP members visit homes all year round where people are continually trying to meet basic family expenses every day but affording these expenses typically seems to cause more worry at special occasions such as Christmas. Those hardest hit include a range of households with varying circumstances including those dependent on benefits; one-parent families; low-income workers; low-income households in rural areas; people with disabilities and their carers. That is why we are seeking donations in the form of vouchers to give people the gift of choice and help families pay for food, heat their homes and ensure their children wake up to a magical Christmas.”





## SVP Celebrates 25 Years of the Giving Tree Appeal

Stella McLaughlin and Department for Communities Permanent Secretary, Colum Boyle, joined Mary Waide, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, to launch the 25<sup>th</sup> annual joint Giving Tree Appeal with Belfast Central Mission. Colum said:

"This year marks a significant milestone as we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our partnership. Each year teams in offices across the Northern Ireland Civil Service look forward to joining together to donate gifts for children in our local communities in the hope that as many children as possible will have a smile on their face this Christmas morning."



Thomas Reilly is pictured receiving vouchers from Stella at Regional Office.



# Generous Donations

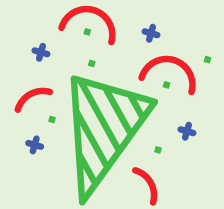
SVP is very grateful for the support of individuals, corporates, schools, sports clubs and partners across the Region who support the charity with donations throughout the year, for Members' Day and especially for our Annual Appeal at Christmas.



St Colman's SVP Conference member, **Colm Doran**, organised a fundraising event with his friend **Kieran Cunningham** (second left). Conference members **Roisin Cole** and **Patricia White** accepted the generous donation and thanked Colm and Kieran for their initiative.

St Colman's SVP Conference received Christmas hampers from the generous pupils of **St Louis Grammar** and **St Columban's** schools. Local primary school children from **St Colman's, Grange** and **Gaelsoil na mBeann** decorated Conference cards with beautiful Christmas scenes. The cards and hampers were delivered to families throughout Mourne faced with impossible choices at Christmas.

**Mary Waide**, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, and **Pauline Brown**, SVP Regional Manager, had the privilege of meeting with staff and students of **Aquinas Grammar School**. We would like to thank them for welcoming us to their school and for their very generous donation.



Thank You!



**Mary Waide**, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, was invited to accept a donation from the **Eoin Henry Foundation**. SVP was one of 20 charities nominated to receive a donation of £1,500 from Eoin's family and we are very grateful for their generosity.

THANK YOU!



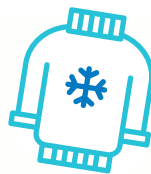
St John Ambulance Cadet **Joshua** visited Regional Office with **Steven Haggan**, District Youth Lead, to deliver donations which were gratefully accepted by **Pauline Brown**, SVP Regional Manager.



Pupils from years 11 and 12 of **Assumption Grammar, Ballynahinch**, presented a cheque for £500 to local SVP members.



**St Patrick's & St Brigid's College Claudy** raised £1,135 in support of SVP's Annual Appeal with various activities including a Christmas Jumper Day, Community Day and hamper draw.



**Loreto College** raised £2,170 which was shared between St John's and St Malachy's SVP Conferences, Coleraine. Students are pictured with **Aidan Martin** from St John's and **Sr Anne McWilliams** from St Malachy's – thank you to everyone who donated!

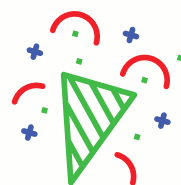


**St Patrick's Primary School Ballynahinch** presented hampers to the members of the local SVP Conference.

*Thank You!*



**St Colmcilles Primary School in Carrickmore** made a presentation from fundraising throughout the month of December.



**Bannvale Credit Union** presented donations to three local SVP Conferences at Christmas.



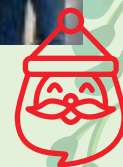




**Donaghadee Rotary Club** donated £220 Devonport Butcher's vouchers. Their President **David Cochrane** (right) presented the cheque to **Frank McDonald** of Holy Redeemer SVP Conference, Ballyholme.



**St John's Primary School** raised £300 from a Santa Fun Run. The cheque was presented to **Martin McCallion** and **Anne Irwin**.



**St Columbanus School in Bangor** presented SVP with a donation of £3,186.66 for the Annual Appeal in North Down & Ards.



Thank You!



**Bertie Carson**, President of North Down Rotary Club, presented **Eileen Thomson** and **Matt Murray** of Holy Redeemer SVP Conference, Ballyholme, with a cheque for £500 for the Annual Appeal.



**St John's parishioner James Doherty** celebrated his 80th birthday on 17th December. Instead of birthday gifts James very kindly asked that those attending his party make a cash donation to be split between **St John's SVP Conference** and Salvation Army. **Martin McCallion** and **Anne Irwin** met with James and his wife Rosemary at their home for a cuppa, and were presented with a donation of £1,160.





SVP member Sean McGreevy of St James Aldergrove SVP Conference received a donation from Century Electrical Wholesale.



Mr Thomas McCaughey presented Valerie McGreevy, West Belfast Area President, with two cheques to West Belfast SVP Conferences totalling £3,960 which was collected from pupils and staff to help alleviate pressures on families in West Belfast.



The students of St Columba's College presented Mrs Ú Merron with a generous cheque for SVP Portaferry & Ballygalget.



St Patrick's Portadown SVP Conference volunteers dedicated their Saturday to host a collection in Tesco at the Meadows in Portadown. Thank you to everyone who donated!



SVP was delighted to benefit from the WBR Chamber Christmas Charity Lunch with a cheque donation presented to members of the local Conference.



Mary Waide, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, met with Niall McQuillan of McQuillan Companies, to accept a very generous donation of £2,500. SVP is one of a number of charities the company supports annually.

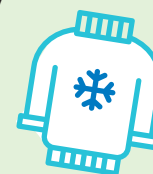
Thank You!



Ursula Boyle, Portadown Rotary Club, presented St Patrick's Portadown SVP Conference with a cheque following a collection in Craigavon Tesco Extra which ran for two weeks with SVP volunteering during one week.



Two local schools hosted a Christmas Jumper Day in aid of St Patrick's Portadown SVP Conference Annual Appeal.



Portadown Credit Union kindly donated a cheque to St Patrick's Portadown SVP Conference Annual Appeal.





Thank You!



A heartfelt thank you from **St Canice SVP Conference, Limavady**, for support for the Annual Appeal to help families in the Limavady Area. We would also like to thank the community for their support throughout the year. Supporters and partners include: **Antoinettes Cafe, Limavady; Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs office in Ballykelly; Limavady Rotary Club; Limavady Wolfhounds GAC; Seating Matters, Limavady; St Mary's, Limavady, Shared Education Carol Service and W J O'Brien, Funeral Directors.**



The children of **St Dymphna's Primary School in Dromore** collected £500 for the Annual Appeal. Rosemary Teague of St Davogs SVP Conference collected the generous donation on behalf of SVP.



**Holy Redeemer in Ballyholme** was grateful for a donation of £6,000 of butchers vouchers in December and a grant of £2,920 towards white goods from a Bangor Charity which wished to remain anonymous.



# Christmas Celebrations

Members of St Joseph Crossgar and Kilmore SVP Conference gathered together to celebrate the festive season at their annual Christmas Dinner.



# The Difference SVP Makes

I was visited tonight by two members of SVP. I was treated with respect and dignity, the members were genuinely interested in my situation and spent time with me.

I was offered much needed assistance.

The way in which I was treated reflects the values and mission statement of SVP, I thank all of you for this. If you could pass on my sincere gratitude, I would be very much obliged. Hopefully soon I will be back on 'my own two feet' and will be able to offer something back.

Keep up the good work.

Have a happy and holy Christmas.





## St. Vincent de Paul Welcomes Renowned Musician Malachi Cush to Centre Stage as Charity Ambassador

In a harmonious fusion of melody and philanthropy, Malachi Cush, the celebrated singer-songwriter, assumed the role of Ambassador for the Northern Region of St. Vincent de Paul, in April. With a shared commitment to making a positive impact across the Northern Region, this partnership heralded a new era of creativity and compassion.

“Together, we can make a meaningful difference and be a light in the lives of those most in need.”



Known for his soul-searching performances and heartfelt lyrics that resonate with audiences of all ages, Dungannon man Malachi brings musical prowess and a genuine dedication to humanity. His ability to connect deeply with local communities, coupled with his unwavering commitment to doing good, make him an ideal ambassador for SVP.

Mary Waide, SVP Regional Manager for the Northern Region, expressed her deep gratitude to Malachi Cush and said:

**“We are humbled to welcome Malachi Cush to be an Ambassador of St. Vincent de Paul as his values are perfectly aligned with the mission of St. Vincent de Paul.**

Loved across the generations, Malachi is a great role model to children and the young and old alike. The qualities he possesses are exceptional and he reaches far beyond the stages he performs on. I believe that his passion transcends boundaries, and his infectious spirit has the ability to lift even the most vulnerable amongst us. As our Ambassador, Malachi will be embarking on a journey with SVP to raise the charity’s profile locally through fundraising opportunities and public appearances and we are very privileged to have his support.”

Commenting on his new role with SVP, Malachi Cush said:

**“I am deeply honoured to have been chosen as Ambassador for St. Vincent de Paul. For so many years, this charity has had a remarkable impact on the most vulnerable members of our society, empowering them with dignity and support.**

I admire the dedication and selflessness of the volunteers and staff who tirelessly carry out the organisation’s mission. I am inspired by their unwavering commitment to caring for others and hope that I can contribute to their noble cause as part of this wonderful team.

As Ambassador, I am committed to shedding light on the vital work being done by SVP and raising awareness of the ongoing needs within our communities. I hope to serve as a relatable and approachable advocate for the charity, fostering connections and support for many years to come. Together, we can make a meaningful difference and be a light in the lives of those most in need.”





## Malachi Cush Members' Day Performance



One of Malachi's first official engagements as SVP Regional Ambassador for the Northern Region was entertaining those gathered on Members' Day. Malachi brought proceedings to a close, encouraging guests to join in as he performed a variety of songs. Malachi was accompanied by Plunkett McGartland.

# MARY goes Back to School



Malachi invited Mary Waide, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, to take a trip down memory lane and visit her primary school, St Patrick's Primary School in Dungannon.

With its motto of 'Christ In All Things', Mary spoke to the children about St. Vincent de Paul and the founder of SVP, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam.

The school choir performed a special arrangement of Ave Maria, under the musical direction of Malachi, which was enjoyed by Mary and local SVP representatives Charlie Rafferty, Area President, and Mandy Cavlin, Conference President.





# Christmas at the Cathedral



Malachi performed a sold out 'Christmas At The Cathedral' in aid of SVP in the awe-inspiring splendour of Armagh's St Patrick's Cathedral.

Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh, was in attendance and Mary Waide, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, delivered a Reflection

Accompanied by a full chamber orchestra, Malachi was joined on stage by Karl McGuckin, Eilis Fox and Beth Tiffney for what he described as being 'the perfect celebration of the true spirit of Christ's birth'.

# What I Believe

by Malachi Cush

As time passes you realise that God only gives you what you can handle.



## Tell me about your background.

I was born into a very happy and vibrant family with my parents Paddy and Pat and siblings Caroline, Brian, Marion, and Aileen. I was the baby of the house. My memories are filled with happiness, music and laughter, and we were all so blessed to be reared by parents who gave everything they had to make our lives better, and offer us more opportunities than maybe they had enjoyed. I loved primary school at Saint Patrick's in Donaghmore and went on to study for GCSEs and A-levels. In later years I gained a teaching diploma in Music and am currently studying for a degree in Theology. I have worked now for over 20 years in the music and media sector and continue to enjoy the opportunities and experiences the self-employed world presents.

## How and when did you come to faith?

I remember travelling with the family together for Mass each Sunday and we would have prayed the Rosary weekly as a family at home. As I got a little older I was an altar server and even at that tender age gaining an awareness of the importance of the Sacraments. At one stage I thought of becoming a priest.

## Have you ever had a crisis or a gnawing doubt about your faith?

My moments of doubt strangely came when I was at the height of my career and maybe not doubt but apathy, which is maybe worse. I was living a life full of opportunities, and excitement and everything on the outside seemed to be perfect but I soon realised however, that I was missing something and that was my relationship with God. I had forgotten that most important companion on the journey of Life.

Pain, suffering or loss have a powerful way of grounding you and reconnecting you with the important things. The darkest and hardest times in our life journey are also the moments

when we feel God close. Without faith I would find those moments much harder to work through.

## Could you envisage a life without faith?

No. Faith is central to my life, and daily prayer and weekly Mass are two things which my wife Claire and I hold firm. I have been so honoured to sing at those moments in people's lives like marriage, death and healing when they need the inspiration of their church and faith.

## Is there a difference between being spiritual and being religious?

They go together.

## Are you ever frustrated by your own faith or denomination?

On occasion but no church is perfect. They are led by human beings and every person has flaws. I am saddened at the decline in vocations and we have been guilty of taking our ordained for granted at times, but this too seems to be a challenge for many churches.



What I Believe with Malachi Cush was first published by Belfast Telegraph

### Can you look beyond death?

I believe in the Resurrection so I do not fear death. We will be reunited with God and with the many souls who have departed this life. Like most people I have made many mistakes, but I do try to live in a way that hopefully will gain me an entry to Heaven.

### Is your faith fulfilling its mission?

I have been honoured to share music and hymns through teaching at schools. They too have the joy in their hearts that I remember from when I was young. This is in some way fulfilling my mission.

### Have you ever experienced a “leap of faith moment?”

Yes, when I was younger I wanted to be a Religion teacher. However my life took a different path. I hope that by 2025 I will have graduated in Theology and I am excited for what lies ahead.

### Why are so many people turning their backs on organised religion?

They have been disillusioned by the many scandals that have rocked our Church, and many don't feel it is relevant. I hear people saying that it is boring and antiquated and they simply feel they don't need it in an ever-secular world.

### How is faith portrayed in the media?

Not nearly fairly enough. I see people of faith doing incredible work all the time, ordained and lay people continue to help the sick, the poor and the marginalised every single day. The media rarely seem to highlight any of this great work that is grounded in Love for one another.

### Have you ever been angry with God?

Not angry, but disappointed at times. I have hopes and desires, and have experienced times of pain and struggle. Often it seems that your prayers go unanswered. As time passes you realise that God only gives you what you can handle and always gives you what you need as Garth Brooks put it, 'Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers.'

### Have you a favourite hymn/spiritual song?

How Great Thou Art is my all-time favourite. I adore singing this and when the congregation join in it brings me to a very deeply emotional place.

### Is there a religious text from which you derive comfort?

I love the story of The Road to Emmaus. It reminds me that we never know when we might encounter the living Christ, and our hearts and eyes must be open to recognising him.

### What happens after death?

We will meet God face to face, and there will be a judgement. If we have lived lives worthy to be with Him we will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven and be reunited with the many who have gone before us.

### Has religion helped or hindered in Northern Ireland?

For the most part religion has helped. So many times our churches have had to pick up the pieces in very difficult, traumatic occasions and try and rebuild the fractured pieces of people's lives. I am saddened that there have been times when hate has been preached,

and division flourished from that, but the Christian message is love of neighbour and at times some preachers forgot that.

### Where do you feel closest to God?

Singing in church. There is such a deep connection that I cannot explain, but I feel it so personally.

### Some personal preferences?

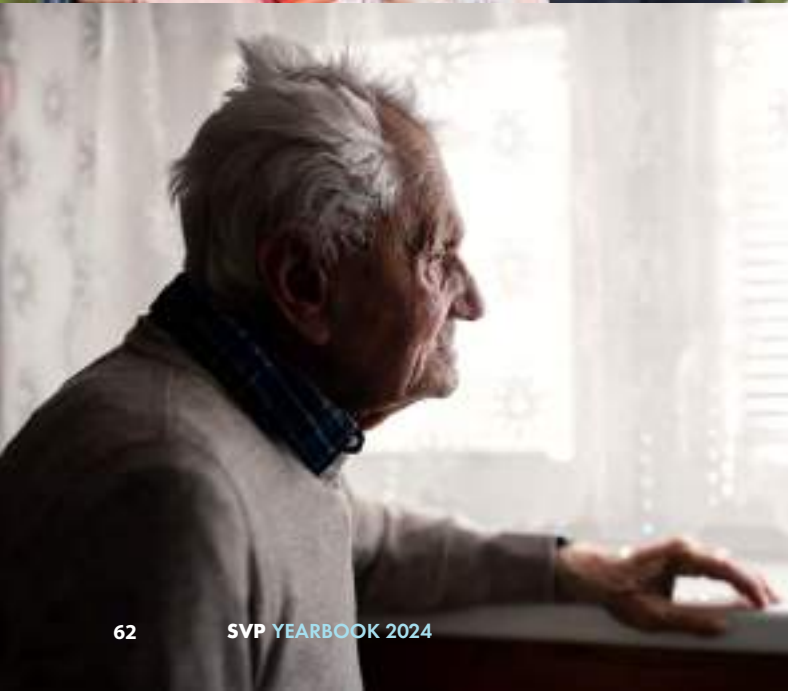
Book: *The Man in White* by Johnny Cash which tells of his love of Saint Paul. Film: *The Green Mile*; Music; I always return to Joni Mitchell's *Both Sides Now*.

### How would you like to be remembered?

As someone who tried to do their best, who failed and tried again.

### Do you believe in regrets?

Yes. Regrets are important to help us grow. If we have no regrets then we've done absolutely nothing wrong... I'd like to meet that person.





# Social Justice – A Key Cornerstone Of Our Work

In his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis calls to mind a practice from the Old Testament where farmers were encouraged not to harvest their fields right up to the edges and not to collect any produce that they missed while harvesting, but to leave the margins and the gleanings for the poor and the stranger to collect what they needed to survive.

In SVP we are a people who stand in the margins to ensure that there is enough and very often where the margins are very tight and there is insufficient for people to survive, we have to be the margins to ensure that there is food and heat where there is scarcity.

At times like this we have to hold Government to account and remind them of their responsibility to ensure that all citizens are taken care of and hold them to account when suffering becomes the norm, rather than the exception.

As Vincentians, we are about the business of relieving suffering caused by poverty. In our visits, we need to respond justly to people and in turn seek justice on the wider stage. Our founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam states our calling very clearly when he says: “The question which is agitating the world today is a social one. It is a struggle between those who have nothing and those who have too much. Our duty as Christians is to throw ourselves between those two camps, in order to accomplish by love, what justice alone cannot do.”

**Gerardine Cunningham**  
Chair, Northern Region Social Justice Group

Much has changed since the publication of ‘Beyond Breaking Point: Sharing the perspective of SVP Members on the cost of living crisis’ in November 2023. This was a groundbreaking report for SVP Northern Region, for the first time sharing research on the experience SVP members gain through visitation.

The report offered unique insights into the reality and hardships of the people we assist across a wide variety of themes – reflecting on the realities of poor housing standards, inadequate mental health supports, through to navigating complex social welfare systems.

## A New Executive and Opportunity For Action

In 2024, the most significant development of the year was undoubtedly the restoration of the Northern Ireland Executive. We can now hope to see the impact of political leadership on the lives of people living in poverty.

In ‘Beyond Breaking Point’, the restoration of the Executive was a key recommendation as a fundamental enabling factor to create the strategies and policies needed to bring about real change.

We now hope the restored Executive will lead to progress on some of the specific changes we called for in our report, which were based on the experience of SVP members.

## Poverty Now Rising<sup>1</sup>

In a concerning development, data was published in 2024 by the Department for Communities showing many poverty indicators are now increasing.

Overall, the proportion of people living in poverty (relative poverty, before housing costs) rose from 16% in 2021/22 to 18% in 2022/2023 (the most recent data).

For children, this increase was even more stark. Whilst 18% of children were in poverty (relative poverty, before housing costs) in 2021/2022, the following year this had increased to 24%.

The proportion of children who were both living on a low income, and who had experienced material deprivation (going without essential goods and services) also increased – rising from 7% to 9% of children.

<sup>1</sup> Northern Ireland Poverty and Income Inequality report 2022-23 | Department for Communities

Poverty rates, measured both before and after housing costs, rose dramatically for social and private renters between 2021/22 and 2022/2023.

These rising rates of poverty are a worrying change from the downward trend of recent years.

At SVP, we see the real-life face of these statistics, with people struggling to keep up with the cost of living and having to make their money go further to cover the weekly essentials.

In 2025, we will continue to use our voice to call for the changes needed to bring poverty rates down.

## Making Our Voice Heard

In 2024, SVP drew on the views and experiences of SVP members from 'Beyond Breaking Point' to respond to two consultations:

SVP responded to the Department for Communities Equality Impact Assessment for their draft Budget. We stated our concerns about the potential impact of the proposed cuts on the households we support at SVP – stating that rather than a reduction in essential services and funding, we needed to witness investment in prevention and long term change.

Responding to the Draft Programme for Government, SVP called for addressing and eradicating poverty to be included as an explicit priority of the Government. We welcomed the publication of the Draft Programme for Government as an important milestone on the path to addressing long term problems such as poverty. We provided detailed feedback on aspects that we welcomed and were pleased to see, as well as where there could be more detail and more ambition. Finally, we called for the inclusion of specific poverty-reduction targets to ensure joined up action and prioritisation across Government.

As things stand today, Northern Ireland has neither an overall Anti-Poverty Strategy, nor a Child Poverty Strategy.<sup>2</sup> As shown above, by rising poverty rates, the need for coordinated action and a real focus on reducing poverty could not be clearer.

We hope that in 2025 the restored Executive will take a significant step forward and publish a much-needed Anti-Poverty Strategy to satisfy its obligations under the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Responding to consultation opportunities for a draft Strategy will be a key priority for the Northern Region Social Justice Group in 2025.

2 NI Audit Office Report – Child Poverty in Northern Ireland.pdf

## Calling For Change

Also in 2024, the Northern Region Social Justice Group Chair, Gerardine Cunningham, continued to call for change and represent the Social Justice aspect of the Society's Mission and Ethos.

## Working for Social Justice

**We are Committed to identifying the root cause of poverty and social exclusion and, in solidarity with the disadvantaged and those living in poverty, to advocate and work for the changes required to create a more just and caring society – SVP Mission**



Appearing on BBC Radio Ulster in commemoration of Eradication of Poverty Day, Gerardine Cunningham, Chair of SVP Northern Region Social Justice Group, stated that child poverty was increasing due to the continuation of the two-child limit. She also stated that the five-week wait for benefits caused people to take loans during this time, which lessened their benefits amount once their payments began. Gerardine said that while inflation was reported to be reducing, this was not reflected on supermarket shelves thus making weekly shopping more expensive for people whose benefit amounts were unable to stretch that far.

## Call to Action to SVP Members



In 2025 we will continue to share the experience and insights of SVP members in order to call for improvements in the policies and systems that shape our lives.

**In order to do this – we need to hear from you!**

We will keep you informed of upcoming opportunities to discuss the Society's Social Justice work.

Please get in touch with [Socialjustice@svpni.co.uk](mailto:Socialjustice@svpni.co.uk) if you have something to share with us.





## Eastside Awards Recognises Gerardine Cunningham

Gerardine Cunningham, Chair of SVP Northern Region Social Justice Group, was recognised as a finalist at the Eastside Awards for her dedication to volunteering for SVP in East Belfast.

# St. Vincent de Paul Priority For Those Living in Poverty

**Ahead of the General Election, St. Vincent de Paul appealed for candidates in the Northern Region to give priority to those living in poverty.**

While celebrating 180 years in Ireland, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, Mary Waide, said that in 180 years the need hasn't changed but in fact, is now greater than ever before.

Mary said: "Calls to our Regional Office doubled in 2021 and in 2022 requests for help rose by a further 50%. Last year we received around 2,000 calls per month and sadly this year we have seen a further rise.

**"We work throughout Northern Ireland responding to needs within local communities arising from poverty. Our requests are mainly in respect of the basics of food, gas and electricity costs. Many people rely on benefits and payment levels are painfully inadequate when considered against today's cost of living."**

SVP called for an end to the five-week wait when applying for Universal Credit. When people apply for Universal Credit or have their benefits reviewed, there is a five-week assessment period.

Mary added: "St. Vincent de Paul has responded to families, often with several children, being left with nothing to live on during this five-week wait. They are offered a loan which they have to pay back once benefits commence which builds poverty into the system. SVP believes this needs to stop."

SVP also called for an end to the two-child limit which creates deeper levels of child poverty, stating that:

"Feeding four children on the money for two children creates hardship for all the children in the family in terms of food, having a warm environment in the home or the capacity to thrive educationally, leading to poverty of ambition, and causes the cycle of poverty to continue into adulthood."

The charity believes that urgent work needs to be done to address the present housing shortage and to improve the standard of housing stock currently available.

"Lack of social housing stock creates the need for people to have to rent privately. Benefits, which can barely meet the food and heat requirements, have to be diverted to cover rent top ups."

Mary continued:

**"SVP would ask candidates across the Region to make it their priority to address these issues, otherwise we believe that their constituents will be condemned to further poverty and injustice."**





# Fleur Anderson MP Visits SVP

Fleur Anderson MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office, requested to meet with members of SVP and volunteers of Vincent's just before Christmas.

Fleur listened intently about the invaluable work that members are engaged in throughout the Region and about some of the challenges members face on the doorstep.

Fleur browsed Vincent's on Antrim Road and congratulated the volunteers on their dedication and even enjoyed a sneak peek of the Bridal Shop.



# Retail

2024 was another busy year in Retail and the Regional Retail Committee met every four to six weeks, working hard to continue to ensure that the Society's retail activities are appropriately supported and managed through adequate oversight. The Committee advises the Regional Board and Council in relation to implementation, progress, and adherence with the Current National Retail Strategy 2021–2025, and the Chair and Regional Retail Manager meet regularly with the Regional President and Regional Manager.

As chair of the committee, I am grateful for the commitment and contribution of the committee members; Mairead Taggart, Omagh; Bernie McNiece, Armagh; Eileen McKenna, Portadown; Anne Marie Hughes, Killyclogher; and Denise McAllister, Belfast. Thanks too goes to Stephen Carlin, Strabane, who just recently joined the committee. Patrick Friel, Regional Treasurer, attends all our meetings and provides advice and guidance on financial matters. The committee is indebted to our Regional Retail Manager, Anne Crossan, for her support in providing us with information on all aspects of our shops, and ensuring decisions are carried through.

**In 2024 our priorities included the following:**

meeting and supporting shop committees who provide the governance of the shops; a review of shop standards – are they fit for purpose, well maintained and safe for the staff, volunteers and public.

The Society is committed to ensuring efficient use of funds and in 2024 we were successful in our review of more efficient use of vans throughout the Region.

Shops have been encouraged to have clearance sales on a regular basis and find innovative ways to manage excess donations and reduce sending items to be recycled.

In 2025 we will continue to support shop Conferences in their governance roles, ensuring they have appropriate information to do so.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is firmly committed to ethical recycling. We appreciate the challenge our shops face in managing the volume of donations received however the challenges are now combined with the fact that worldwide recycling companies have reduced outlets for recycled clothing.



In 2025, to combat this challenge, we are introducing a campaign based on managing donations and we will also be asking for the support of the public to ensure they donate clean items in good condition and fit for resale.

We fully appreciate the contribution our shops make to the Society, in providing a service to communities and contributing financially to support the Visitation work of Conferences.

**Anne McLarnon**  
Chair, Regional Retail Committee





## **UTV Life Promotes Christmas Jumper Day**



Viewers of UTV Life, the primetime Friday night television programme on UTV, were encouraged to host a Christmas Jumper Day to raise funds for the Annual Appeal when Regional Retail Chair and SVP board member Anne McLarnon was interviewed by UTV Life presenter Rita Fitzgerald. Filming of the interview took place on location at Vincent's on Antrim Road in Belfast.





## Spotlight on Vincent's Managers



**Barry Allum**  
**Vincent's**  
Castle Street, Omagh

I joined Vincent's in September 2024 having been on a journey of working for charity organisations in various roles for over a decade.

I was compelled from a young age to choose a career in charity retail and I've been a volunteer, keyholder, sales/store associate, and I've run a fulfilment centre.

In my first managerial role I was the youngest shop manager, there were challenges and obstacles but they allowed me to grow in experience and confidence, enabling me to take on the role as part of the SVP team at Vincent's in Omagh.

Whilst spending time with my Granny from a young age, she would take me out for days and we would visit various charity shops. She showed me that we did not always need to buy new clothing / items and that buying preloved/second-hand items helped support charities like SVP.

I moved to Northern Ireland recently to be close to family and I knew I wanted to work at Vincent's as I really admire the SVP ethos. I enjoy spending time supporting the local area where I live and being able to go the extra mile for our customers. I also enjoy giving good customer service and I have an amazing team of dedicated and hardworking volunteers who are passionate about the work of SVP – for that I am extremely grateful.

I feel that I have a good support network which has helped me make my own stamp and show my skillset and ability, to ensure that my customers have a good shopping experience.

I'm excited about future planning with a pop up shop event in the summer, organising events to help recruit volunteers and building relationships with other Vincent's in the local area.



**Fiona Dick**  
**Vincent's**  
Springfield Road, Belfast

I've worked in retail for around eight years but my heart has been in charity retail, so I was excited to start managing Vincent's on Springfield Road about a week before Christmas 2024! It was great to come in to such a festive shop and afterwards have a blank slate to work with for getting the shop sitting lovely after New Year's! I attended a Charity Careers and Volunteering event, hoping to find a fulfilling way to give back, and I met the lovely Anne Crossan who told me more about the work of SVP and about the vacancy at Springfield Road.

I love the people! The team of volunteers at the Springfield Road store are kind, friendly and hardworking. The effort they all put in really shows and creates a welcoming, warm environment for the customers who come in to the store. They have also been very welcoming to me.

Professionally, I have already learned so much in a short space of time. Between training with the outgoing manager and

the help and advice I have received from the three other Belfast store managers, I have learned a lot and know that there is an excellent support network in place. Personally, I can already see an improvement in my confidence in my short time being here and I find it extremely easy to get on with all the people involved with Vincent's.

We are fortunate that the customers see firsthand what an excellent team we have in the shop. A lot of the volunteers spread the word that we have a great team, and customers can see it while in store. As a result of seeing happy volunteers, we have received a lot of interest from more people keen to volunteer.

I'm looking forward to hosting customer and community appreciation coffee and tea events, to continue to work on the relationships I have started to build with the volunteers, customers and other managers and to work to improve sales by keeping the shop clean, tidy and well-stocked!

## Spotlight on Vincent's Managers



**Tracy Purcell**  
**Vincent's**  
Antrim Road, Belfast

I started working at Vincent's in October 2022 having worked in charity retail for almost 30 years, as I wanted to use the skills from my previous retail job to make a difference.

My husband and I decided to move over to Ireland to be closer to our only daughter. Particularly as we were going to be grandparents. So, after 27 years working for the same company (and enjoying it), it was time to put my CV on Indeed. And out of all the jobs that came up, Vincent's stood out – it just seemed to be the right fit for me. I liked the ethos of SVP and it was important to me to find a job that would not only benefit from the skills I had gained over the years but also would still allow me to continue to learn and grow myself.

I really enjoy a combination of things about the job. Working and building the team, getting to know the customers and therefore the local community, and seeing the shop grow and evolve.

I learn new things everyday that help with both my professional and personal development. Whether that's going on a training course or a life story from a customer or moving the shop around – it all makes a difference to how we behave and interact with others at work and in our personal lives.

I believe that the best way to encourage more volunteers to get involved, whether that be as a shop volunteer or out in the community, is to lead by example. Find out their strengths, their likes and dislikes. Make your working environment fun and interesting, listen to their ideas and try to incorporate them if possible.

It's important that every team member feels valued.

My aim is to continue to grow and develop the volunteer team as this will allow us to grow and develop the shop into a destination shop, as well as continuing to better serve the communities around it.



**Heather Webster**  
**Vincent's**  
Main Street, Newcastle

I started working at Vincent's in March 2024 and before moving to the lovely Newcastle shop, I managed the fabulous wee Ballymote shop. I love working in charity retail. It's busy, unpredictable at times, with lots of lovely customers and the volunteers are amazing! I love seeing how the work we do and the money raised goes straight into helping the community. That's the motivation!

I enjoy all the different aspects of running the shop, listening to and implementing the great ideas that the volunteers contribute and watching how the community engages with the shop.

It contributes to my professional development as it's an extremely busy role with a lot to organise and I try to keep the shop running smoothly and

efficiently. Managing a charity shop like Vincent's keeps you grateful, aware and humbled by the generosity of people in the community and also by the amount of help needed within the community that SVP does such a fantastic job with.

Moving forward I intend to keep trying to improve customer and volunteer experience as they're both highly important for the shops to be successful. To make the volunteers time that they give for free, a rewarding and pleasant contribution to the community. To keep the stock in the shop full, priced well and consistently flowing and moving and to maximise the shop's potential, along with the staff, volunteers and myself.

**SVP is a fantastic charity that I'm grateful to be part of.**





## Spotlight on Vincent's Volunteer

Phyllis McIlduff



At 96 years young, **Phyllis McIlduff**, has decided to retire from her volunteering role after 35 years in Vincent's Lurgan.

Phyllis made her modelling debut for SVP at the Regional Fashion Show in 2018 and, in the same year, she was awarded Volunteer of the Year at Vincent's Retail Conference.

**We wish Phyllis a long and happy retirement!**



# Shops Pop Up Around the Region

## Killyclogher Hosts Pop Up

A great day was had by all at the **Vincent's Killyclogher Pop Up!** We would like to thank all the members, staff and volunteers from Omagh Area who helped to make the pop up so successful. Special thanks to the staff from Power NI who helped hang 1000's of garments in preparation for the event!



## Collaborative Pop Up in Armagh

Vincent's shops in **Armagh** and **Portadown** created a pop up clearance event in collaboration with business students from **Southern Regional College** to bring fantastic deals to the local community.

The Vincent's Pop Up took place at Southern Regional College with bargains galore from mens fashions to ladies garments and childrens clothes. Footwear and accessories were also on sale. And everything was priced at £1.00.

SVP Member Anne McLarnon, Chair of Vincent's Regional Retail Committee, said: "There was great enthusiasm for bringing the idea to the local community as Vincent's had already hosted a number of clearance events across the Northern Region which were hugely successful.

"This partnership arose organically when several students began volunteering in Vincent's in Armagh and Portadown as part of their course. Vincent's commitment to sustainability further strengthened the bond between the students and the shops and they worked with the shop managers, staff and volunteers to develop and organise the event. I believe the event was a huge success with the local community coming out to support their local Vincent's and the students at the pop up."

Vincent's collaboration with Southern Regional College's business students was integral to the event's organisation. The students played a pivotal role in designing posters, co-ordinating tasks, and overseeing the event's operations on the day, alongside Vincent's team members from Armagh and Portadown.





# VINCENT'S WIN at National Retail Conference

**Congratulations to Vincent's in the Northern Region for their recognition at the Vincent's Retail Conference and Awards.**

The Vincent's charity shop on **Springfield Road, Belfast**, has won the **Team of the Year Award** in the Northern Region and Vincent's in **Armagh** has won the **PEAKS Award** (Achieving Excellence Through Services including promoting affordability, ethics, and inclusion) in the Northern Region.

**Exceptional Effort for Peaks 2023 Campaign: Armagh: Stefan McShane, Manager**

**Highest Growth in Sales 2023: Derry**

Congratulations to **Gerry Keatings** from **Ormeau Road** who delivered a great presentation at the Conference!

The awards were presented at the Vincent's 2024 Retail Conference in University College Cork and was attended by approximately 200 volunteers and managers from the Vincent's network of shops throughout Ireland.

A theme of the Conference was the social, environmental and financial value (the triple bottom line) that Vincent's shops bring to the work of SVP.

Vincent's shops are important to their local communities, generating surpluses that are used to support those most in need in those communities and operating in a sustainable manner.

SVP operates 28 shops in the Northern Region and there are over 230 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.

Speakers at the Conference included **Kevin O'Sullivan** Environment and Science Editor of the Irish Times; **Robin Osterley**, CEO, Charity Retail Association UK; and **Jeff Buamguard**, Director of Stores Support, SVP, USA.



## VINCENT'S Celebrates 15 Years in current Ballymena location

Vincent's Ballymena has proudly commemorated 15 years at its current location with unwavering dedication to serving and uplifting the local community. Since its move to Cushendall Road in 2009, Vincent's Ballymena has evolved into a cornerstone of support, providing essential resources, fostering connections, and embodying the spirit of generosity that defines the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

From its humble beginnings, Vincent's Ballymena has blossomed into a vibrant community hub, a beacon of hope where individuals from all walks of life converge to find a bargain and meet new friends. Vincent's Ballymena is synonymous with compassion, resilience, and empowerment in the local area.

Central to the success of Vincent's Ballymena is its enthusiastic and dedicated staff and volunteers, whose selfless commitment has fuelled the charity's mission since the shop opened its doors. Their tireless efforts and boundless generosity have touched countless lives, exemplifying the true essence of community spirit.





Mary Waide, SVP Regional President for the Northern Region, said: "As a member of St. Vincent de Paul in Ballymena I worked closely with other SVP Conference members in the town to relocate this much needed community resource 15 years ago and I am so proud of the staff and volunteers in developing a shop that has made a great impact locally since moving in 2009.



I want to personally express my gratitude to the staff, volunteers and members of SVP who have been invaluable in making Vincent's Ballymena the success that it is today. The shop truly holds a special place in the hearts of local people who rely on it and for that we are all very proud."



Mid and East Antrim Mayor, Alderman Gerardine Mulvenna, attended the celebrations together with SVP's Ambassador Malachi Cush.



# Silver Anniversary for VINCENT'S Portadown



Vincent's on Portadown's Garvaghy Road has celebrated 25 years serving the local community with an event attended by SVP members who founded the shop, lots of young shoppers from Ashgrove Playgroup, and Nora Lavery who, at 98 years young, is the shop's longest supporting customer.

Deputy Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council, Cllr Sorcha McGeown, joined SVP members from throughout the Armagh and Craigavon area, and Vincent's staff and volunteers, to congratulate everyone involved in making the shop the success it is today from its humble beginnings 25 years ago.

Vincent's Portadown has evolved into a cornerstone of support, providing essential resources, fostering connections, and embodying the spirit of generosity that defines the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.





One Vincent's volunteer, **Sheila Henderson**, has been volunteering in the shop for 10 years. She says she is proud to volunteer a couple of days a week and she became a volunteer in honour of her mum, **Nan Heaney**, who volunteered from the shop opened, until she sadly passed away nine years ago. "Mummy loved the whole community and volunteered four days a week since the shop opened. I volunteer two mornings a week and I love to meet the regulars who call in for a chat, to bag a bargain or meet new friends. I appreciate all the people who kindly donate to the shop as we couldn't do without the generous donations."

**Bernie McNeice**, SVP Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Area President, said: "It's wonderful to see so many SVP members at today's celebration who enabled this great shop to open 25 years ago, closely followed by the furniture store a couple of years later."

Bernie added: "I would like to recognise the members of the local SVP St Patrick's Conference who were empowered to have their own SVP shop and decided to give it a try. They opened their own Vincent's by emptying out their wardrobes and the local community lent their support by donating clothes, bric-a-brac, books and toys.

Both shops at the Mayfair Business Centre have gone from strength to strength and stood the test of time. There is a lovely sense of collaboration among the team and other SVP Conference members who provided invaluable guidance in the early days.

I would like to pay tribute to the staff and volunteers for their dedication and enthusiasm, fuelling the charity's mission and touching lives with their boundless community spirit. They are central to the shop's success."

**Eileen McKenna**, SVP St Patrick's Conference, added: "We want to thank all our customers who have supported us for the last 25 years. We are looking forward to the next 25 years of continuing to provide a community hub with compassion for the people of Portadown in these changing times."

SVP members and Vincent's Portadown staff and volunteers are grateful to all those who came out to enjoy the celebrations and are thankful for all the support they have received from volunteers who have passed away but who will always be remembered for their contribution in making the shop what it is today.

## Cushendall Kilo Sale

The success of the kilo sale in Cushendall has been attributed to a mighty team working well together! £1,200 was raised in a great combined effort by Vincent's staff and SVP Conference members.

**Congratulations to everyone involved!**



## Melbourne Rose Visits Killyclogher

The team at Vincent's in Killyclogher welcomed Rose of Tralee hopeful, Melbourne Rose, Dervla Dolan, to the shop ahead of the festival. Originally from Omagh, Dervla has previously modelled at Vincent's fashion shows and on her visit she bought some hats to wear at the competition. Dervla is joined by Vincent's well wishers and her grandmother, Nataline Dolan, who is to her right, and who has volunteered in the shop since it opened.

## Peaks Campaign

As the Peaks promotion got underway, Vincent's sales were up by more than 100% in some shops, with one reporting an increase of a staggering 214%!

Some shops adapted innovative ways of encouraging customers to the stores.

BOGOF offers went down a treat in Derry for Hallowe'en and mystery boxes priced at £1 per customer proved a hit in Magherafelt. Mary's handmade gifts in Dairy Farm were lovingly created from donated items, while 'The Gift of Reading' book club brought out the bookworms in Killyclogher!





# Christmas at VINCENT'S

Judges had a difficult task in deciding which creative Christmas Tree displays should be awarded.  
Congratulations to everyone who took part in the competition!



Winner: Book Tree Armagh



Joint Second: Pom Pom Tree Armagh and Skirt Tree Ballymote



## Volunteering at Vincent's

If you're 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 <https://www.svp.ie/what-we-do/shops/>

*Thank you*



## Vibrant Volunteers

Vincent's Volunteers are a vibrant bunch and their enthusiasm is palpable. I would just like to say a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of them for their commitment and dedication.

Anne Crossan **Regional Retail Manager**





## YOUR LOCAL VINCENT'S

### Armagh

46/48 Scotch Street, Armagh,  
BT61 7DF  
T: **028 3778 8040**  
E: [armagh.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:armagh.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### Ballymena

11 Cushendall Road, Ballymena,  
BT43 6HA  
T: **028 2564 4122**  
E: [ballymena.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:ballymena.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### Banbridge

5 Jinglers Court, Banbridge,  
BT32 3YJ  
T: **07547 212810**  
E: [banbridge.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:banbridge.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### Belfast

196/200 Antrim Road,  
BT15 2AJ  
T: **028 9075 2648**  
E: [antrimrd.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:dunmurry.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

138 Ormeau Road, Belfast,  
BT7 2EB  
T: **028 9032 5885**  
E: [ormeaurd.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:ormeaurd.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

98 Springfield Road, Belfast,  
BT12 7AH  
T: **028 9090 7696**  
E: [springfieldrd.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:springfieldrd.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### Cookstown

35 Loy Street, Cookstown,  
BT80 8PZ  
T: **028 8676 9400**  
E: [cookstown.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:cookstown.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### Cushendall

7 Dalriada Avenue, Cushendall,  
BT44 0NB  
T: **028 9443 8523**  
E: [cushendall.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:cushendall.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### Derry

34 William Street, Derry,  
BT48 6ET  
T: **028 7126 8325**  
E: [williamstderry.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:ballymotedownpatrick.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

14 Irish Street, Downpatrick,  
BT30 6BP  
T: **028 4461 4194**  
E: [irishstdownpatrick.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:irishstdownpatrick.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### Dungiven

447 Ballyquin Road, Dungiven,  
BT47 4LX  
T: **028 7774 0714**  
E: [dungiven.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:dungiven.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### Enniskillen

24 Church Street, Enniskillen,  
BT74 7EJ  
T: **028 6632 9893**  
E: [enniskillen.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:enniskillen.vincents@svpni.co.uk)



### **Keady**

39 Kinelowen Street, Keady,  
BT60 3ST

T: 028 3778 8010

E: [keady.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:keady.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### **Lurgan**

14/16 William Street, Lurgan,  
BT66 6JA

T: 028 3832 5725

E: [lurgan.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:lurgan.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### **Omagh**

43 Castle Street, Omagh,  
BT78 1DD

T: 028 8225 2000

E: [omagh.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:omagh.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### **Killyclogher**

72 Circular Road, Omagh,  
BT79 7HA

T: 028 8224 9251

E: [killyclogher.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:killyclogher.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### **Magherafelt**

12 King Street, Magherafelt,  
BT45 6AR

T: 028 7932 8088

E: [magherafelt.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:magherafelt.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](mailto:portadown.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### **Kilrea**

52 Maghera Street, Kilrea,  
BT51 5QN

T: 028 2954 0103

E: [kilrea.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:kilrea.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### **Newcastle**

76 Main Street, Newcastle,  
BT33 0AD

T: 028 4372 4008

E: [newcastle.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:newcastle.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### **Strabane**

18 Barrack Street, Strabane,  
BT82 8HG

T: 028 7188 4479

E: [strabane.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:strabane.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### **Kircubbin**

63 Main Street, Kircubbin,  
BT22 2SR

T: 028 4273 8075

E: [kircubbin.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:kircubbin.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### **Newry**

40a Bridge Street, Newry,  
BT35 8AF

T: 028 3026 8185

E: [bridgestnewry.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:bridgestnewry.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### **Tullygally**

Unit 3/4 Tullygally Shopping Centre,  
Craigavon, BT65 5AU

T: 028 3834 1513

E: [tullygally.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:tullygally.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

### **Lisnaskea**

132 Main Street, Lisnaskea,  
BT92 0JB

T: 028 6772 1906

30 Mill Street, Newry,  
BT34 1EY

T: 028 3026 7590

E: [millstnewry.vincents@svpni.co.uk](mailto:millstnewry.vincents@svpni.co.uk)

# SVP in the Media



[belfastmedia.com](http://belfastmedia.com)

**THE IRISH NEWS**

**Belfast  
Telegraph**

**The Irish Catholic**



## Cover Story

SVP member Dympna Gallagher explains the thinking behind her inspirational front cover design of the 2024 Yearbook encapsulating the ethos of SVP.

The central image is a version of the 'Tree of Life' with a suggestion of a figure representing the human connection reaching out to those in need. The leaf like shapes symbolise people, large and small, to suggest both adults and children.

The colours are deeper at the outside edge leading into the centre which is brighter signifying hope or a brightness coming out of darkness. The circular shape leads the viewer into the centre, suggesting 'light at the end of the tunnel'.



# In Memoriam



## Jean Bailey

Vincent's Portadown Shop Volunteer  
Died 28 December 2024

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of our dear friend and volunteer Jean Bailey. Jean was a volunteer for 25 years in our Vincent's shop in Portadown and she had an eye for fashion and window dressing. We had great fun and have fantastic memories that we will always cherish. She will be sadly missed by us all.



## Sean Curley

Christ the Redeemer SVP Conference, Clonard  
Died 27 January 2025

Sean will be sadly missed by everyone in the West Belfast Area. At Sean's funeral mass, his family thanked SVP West Belfast and also prayed that members would 'continue the good work in his absence.'

## Norman Fergie

St Comgall SVP Conference, Larne  
Died December 2024

## Bro Michael Loran

De La Salle Order  
Died 7 January 2025

Bro Michael was a member of St Teresa of Avila SVP Conference, Belfast.

## Patricia McQuaid

St Comgall SVP Conference, Larne  
Died January 2023



## Gerry Mulhern

St Joseph's SVP Conference, Crossgar  
Died 19 July 2024

Established in 2001, Gerry was a founding member of St Joseph's SVP Conference Crossgar (now St Joseph's Crossgar and Kilmore SVP Conference). Gerry stepped down from active membership in 2022 due to failing health. He was a longstanding and valued Vincentian, who was devoted and hard working in his local community.



## Brendan Mulholland

St Peter and the Rock, SVP Conference, Stoneyford  
Died 31 January 2025

Brendan was a member for 30 years.



## Sheila Reynolds

St Joseph's SVP Conference, Crossgar  
Died 11 August 2024

Established in 2001, Sheila was a founding member of St Joseph's SVP Conference Crossgar (now St Joseph's Crossgar and Kilmore SVP Conference). Sheila stepped down from active membership in 2010 due to failing health. She was a longstanding and valued Vincentian, who was devoted and hard working in her local community.



## Margaret Stewart

St Comgall SVP Conference, Bangor  
Died 27 October 2024

A long time member of St Comgall Conference, Margaret sadly died after a short illness. She is much missed by members and clients alike.



# 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 Peter Strathfoyle
- 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

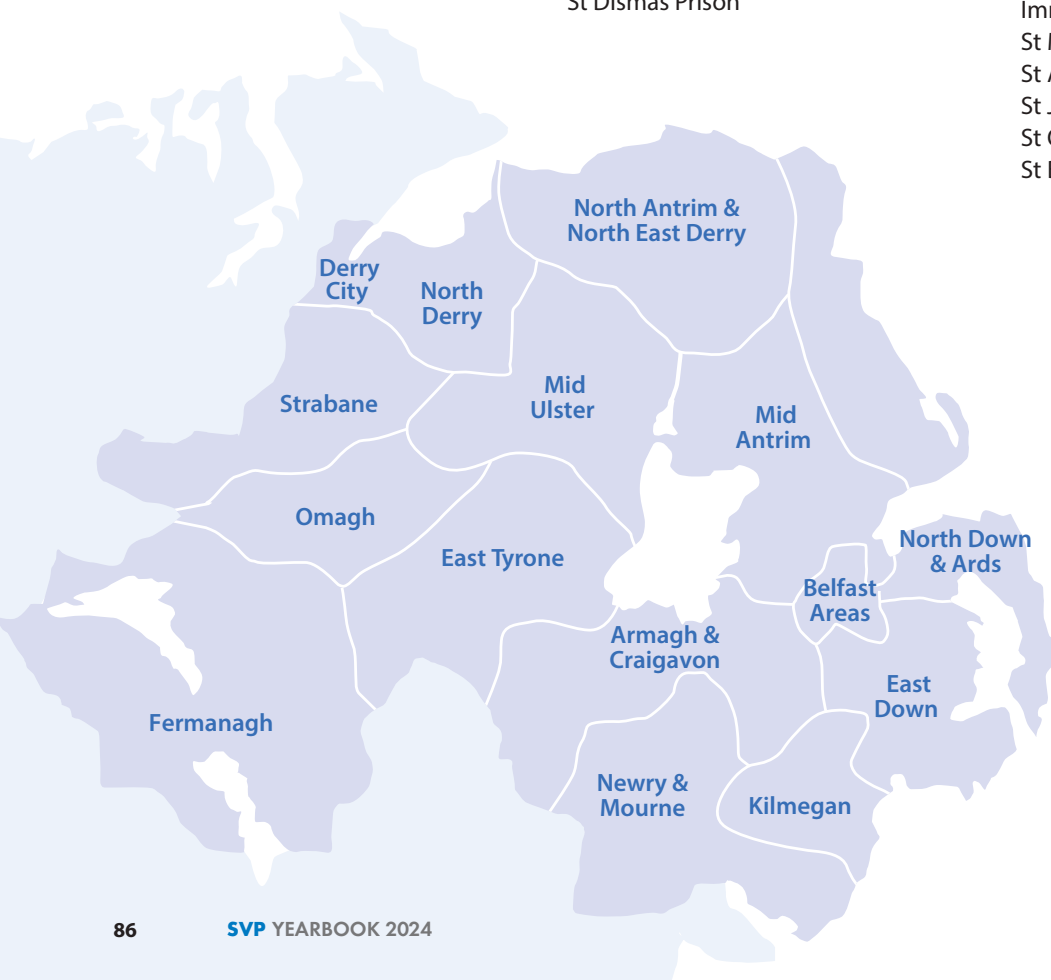
- Errigal
- St John Coleraine
- St Malachy Coleraine
- St Mary Portstewart
- St Patrick Ballymoney
- St Patrick Portrush
- St Brigid Ballycastle
- St Mary & St Columba Rasharkin
- Sacred Heart Cloughmills
- St Mary & St Patrick Cushendall

### Strabane

- St Mary & St Joseph Strabane
- St Patrick Leckpatrick
- St Patrick Castlederg

### 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



### **Mid Antrim**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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

### **Armagh & Craigavon**

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St Patrick Portadown  
Holy Family Seagoe  
St Peter & 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**

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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**

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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**

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

### **North Belfast**

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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**

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

### **West Belfast**

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Corpus Christi  
St Luke Twinbrook  
St Anne Dunmurry  
St Patrick Lisburn  
St Patrick Derriaghly  
St Michaels  
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



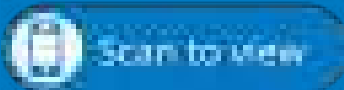
# Society of St. Vincent de Paul

## Northern Region

196–200 Antrim Road,  
Belfast,  
BT15 2AJ

Phone: 028 9035 1561

Email: [info@svpni.co.uk](mailto:info@svpni.co.uk)



[www.svp.ie](http://www.svp.ie)

