



400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VINCENTIAN CHARISM

The work of Scotland's Vincentian family received great recognition, at a spectacular day of spiritual celebrations in Carfin.

Hundreds of Vincentians from across the UK gathered at Carfin on Saturday 29th September, as they celebrated Mass to mark this spiritual event.

James McKendrick, the National President of SSVP Scotland, said "He was very pleased with the turnout at the Mass."

"It was such a wonderful, spiritual, uplifting occasion, that allows the Vincentian family to celebrate aptly the 400th anniversary of our charism and our Vincentian spirituality," he added.



Pilgrims process through the Grotto which was lead by the Diocese of Paisley. Photograph and extract from Scottish Catholic Observer 06/10/17.

The Diocese of Paisley Audit Returns for 2016-2017

Home Visits:	4,387
Hospital Visits:	2,025
Families Assisted Financially:	382
Families Assisted Furniture etc:	124
People Transported To Mass:	4,396
Outings / Socials:	105

The analysis of the statistical information contained within the Diocese of Paisley Audit Returns this year illustrates that both the Inverclyde & Paisley Groups along with the four Special Works Conferences (SWCs) and other projects are all delivering many different works of charity. The Autumn Festival newsletter contains some examples of these works too many to be included but all as of equal importance and beneficial to those who provide and those who receive these acts of Charity.

The SSVP National Annual Report 2016/2017 published this year contains information from all 8 Dioceses representing 272 Conferences and 1,833 members, the quantity printed is sufficient to ensure every SSVP member in Scotland receives a copy.

I encourage you all to read your copy and be inspired as I was having listened to the Speakers and seen and heard the presentations about the Showcase Society Projects at the SSVP Scotland Annual National Meeting on the 14th October 2017.

Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the Diocesan Newsletter. We hope you find the content interesting, informative and helpful in raising your awareness and understanding of the wide range of ongoing Vincentian activities throughout the Diocese of Paisley.

*Brother Danny Collins
Diocesan President*

400th Anniversary 1617 - 2017

Serving the poorest as Christ did and serving Christ in the poorest St Vincent de Paul.

Diocese of Paisley – SSVP Directory now available....

Thanks to Brother John O'Neill secretary for his time and patience and Brother Bernard Gonet for his input and of course all conferences for their updated information.



DIOCESE OF PAISLEY

AUTUMN FESTIVAL NEWSLETTER

OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE SWC (Ozanam Centre)

On Wednesday and Friday evenings every week of the year, we supply a hot three course meal to our clients at Paisley Ozanam Centre. Over 3,000 meals are served annually. In addition to this we continue to distribute forty grocery parcels each month to our clients. We give out emergency food parcels at other times when we identify a client in need or who has been sanctioned. We continue to refer clients to parish conferences for a home visit. They may need furniture, clothing or bedding through the society's Furniture and Clothing Project. We supply a printed card to clients pinpointing places in Paisley where they may obtain a free meal. We also have printed cards giving information on help available from Renfrewshire Council to those who are homeless or in danger of losing their home. Regular clothing nights are held for men and women. Caritas students come to help us once or twice a month from St Luke's High School Barrhead and from St Margaret's Academy in Ayr. Printed Guidelines for Youth working at the Centre are given to their teachers to pass on to the students. Holy Trinity & St Barnabas have donated their Harvest Festival gifts to us since 2004. We receive regular support from local businesses who donate rolls and other foodstuffs. Currently we have 90 volunteers and we cannot thank them enough for the work that they do in our ten teams. Guidelines for our volunteers have recently been updated and given to all volunteers. We must also sincerely thank the Paisley SSVP Diocesan Council and Parish conferences for their longstanding financial support.

RECRUITMENT TEAM / PROGRAMME

The diocesan council agreed that the recruitment team should meet to discuss the next phase of the recruitment programme and to consider the possibility of setting up two teams to serve both Inverclyde and Paisley Group areas.

In order to take this proposal forward **We Appeal to Members** to become involved, the difficulty we have is that some of the existing members are no longer available and the post of Diocesan Recruitment Officer is still vacant.

Please let us know if you are available and interested in being an active member of the recruitment team/programme



Rosalie Rendu SWC – Ozanam Club

Youth Achievement Certificates presented by the Diocesan President Danny Collins at St. Mirin's, Cathedral Hall to a number of young volunteers / helpers in recognition of the completion of their first year at the Ozanam Club and for their invaluable contribution. Many of the young people are able to remain actively involved with the Ozanam Club after leaving education their commitment, compassion is evident, and the relationship they develop with the members (friends) are most welcome and much appreciated.

Saint Vincent's Special Works Conference

Date for the diary: A Mass will be held in St Mirin's Cathedral on Tuesday 6th February 2018 as part of the joint celebration of the Special Works Conference and the St Vincent's Hospice.

St Laurence's, Greenock ... A "TALE" OF THE BANK

The SSVP conference was restarted some months ago as part of the recruitment programme and unfortunately, half the membership have never made a meeting, difficulties agreeing a suitable time for all. The remainder have carried on despite their small numbers and have initiated some activities. Most popular is the Saturday club for the old / infirm where they are assisted to get to a group and there is tea/ sandwiches, cakes, some bingo etc; they love it, weekends are lonely times for them, and volunteers also help. The people want to go on a Christmas shopping in Clydebank or Lomond shores.

The conference have also taken on several cases of real hardship The parish have been contributing generously since the conference restarted and to say thank you a 3 way fold over pamphlet has been prepared telling them about the Society, what it does and thanking them for their contribution also asking for new members.

A few months ago the parishioners were all given a business card with a monitored mobile number for anyone they know that needs help. It has been used

We had a Mass of the sick on St Vincent's feast day which was well attended and the hymn to St Vincent was sung by all.

We are grateful to Fr Andrew Coleman who attends all the meetings and is an enthusiastic member of the conference and their activities. We are hoping to add 2 new members in the near future and hope that pamphlet will produce some more.



"MOONSTRUCK"

"JERICHO TAKES THE BISCUIT"

Was the title of the latest drama production held in Glasgow on the 8th and 9th September performed by the residents from Women's Rehabilitation Unit (See National Annual Report)

Rosalie Rendu SWC – Ozanam Club Annual Outing – Science Museum Glasgow

This year the members (friends) and volunteer helpers left on the full 56 seater coach and headed for the Science Museum for what was a memorable, exciting and pleasant trip. The photographs taken clearly confirm that all had a good time. The Planetarium experience was one off the "Star attractions"



BACK TO THE FUTURE

General Appeal LET US KNOW

Without the active participation of more member's, volunteers and / or helpers, there is a very real danger that we are becoming close to the position where some of the local conferences and projects are at serious risk. I would therefore encourage all members to give some thought to how they may be able to assist us in our efforts to improve this situation.

Brother Danny Collins

New Services for blind people coming to Paisley (Opening in October 2017)

Royal Blind Jenny's Well Care Home.... specialist nursing care for visually impaired older people

Scottish War Blinded Hawkhead Centre.... an activity hub to support the independence of armed forces veterans with sight loss

Meeting held at Diocesan Offices with SSVP presidents and project staff to discuss possibilities of collaborative work between our respective organisations – to be continued.



DIOCESE OF PAISLEY

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Absent friends 2017

Harry McKelvie	St, John's, Barrhead
Hugh McNish	St Charles, Paisley
Patrick Lagan	St James, Paisley
Willie Lappin	St Patrick's Greenock
Dolores Grant	St Fergus, Paisley

Eternal rest give unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

Acknowledgements

I am pleased to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to our Spiritual Director Rev Father Gerard McNellis. The Diocesan Council Members, Presidents of the Four Special Works Conferences, the co coordinators of the various projects and all other conference members and volunteers for their time and efforts made to ensure the continuation of many works of charity, some of which, are referred to in this Autumn Festival Newsletter. *Brother Danny Collins*

Council General International

Subject: Call for Donations to support **Commission for International Aid and Development (CIAD)**

7/10/2017 Update from SSVP Scotland National Office

Following the Communication sent to Conferences in August, Donations totalling £12,600 (30/09/2017) have been received. We are most grateful for this generosity.

SAFEGUARDING LEVEL 1 TRAINING

The Diocesan Policy is that **all church volunteers** doing regulated work with children and vulnerable adults or both should do the **Level 1 training by the end of 2017** the next training sessions will take place in:

St. Fergus, Paisley on Thursday 2nd November at 2pm

St. Colm's, Kilmacolm on Tuesday 7th November at 7pm

St. Conval's, Linwood on Tuesday 14th November at 7pm

Please contact Sarah Jane at the Diocesan Safeguarding office **safeguardingadmin@rcdop.org.uk** or **0141 847 6138** to register for a training session. There will be limited space at each session, therefore SSVP members should register up to one week before the date of the training session

SSVP Scotland Annual Retreat

To all SSVP members within the Diocese of Paisley Our Annual Retreat in conjunction with "Vincentians in Partnership" will take place in:

**St. Mirin's Cathedral Hall,
Paisley Saturday, 2nd December
2017 From 10am to 4pm
Led by: Fr Kevin O Shea**

who is a well-known retreat giver. This event is free including lunch. Please advise of any dietary requirements.

**Kindly reply to the National Office by Friday 24th November to register attendance
0141 226 8833 or
Email: admin@ssvpscotland.com**

Please note: 10am Mass will be held in the Cathedral as normal and it has been the custom and practice to attend mass as part of the retreat.



PVG Scheme update (for Existing Members)

Proposed changes will require SSVP members to engage in PVG Updates. Members whose PVG is Pre 2013 are encouraged to check with their **local parish coordinator**.