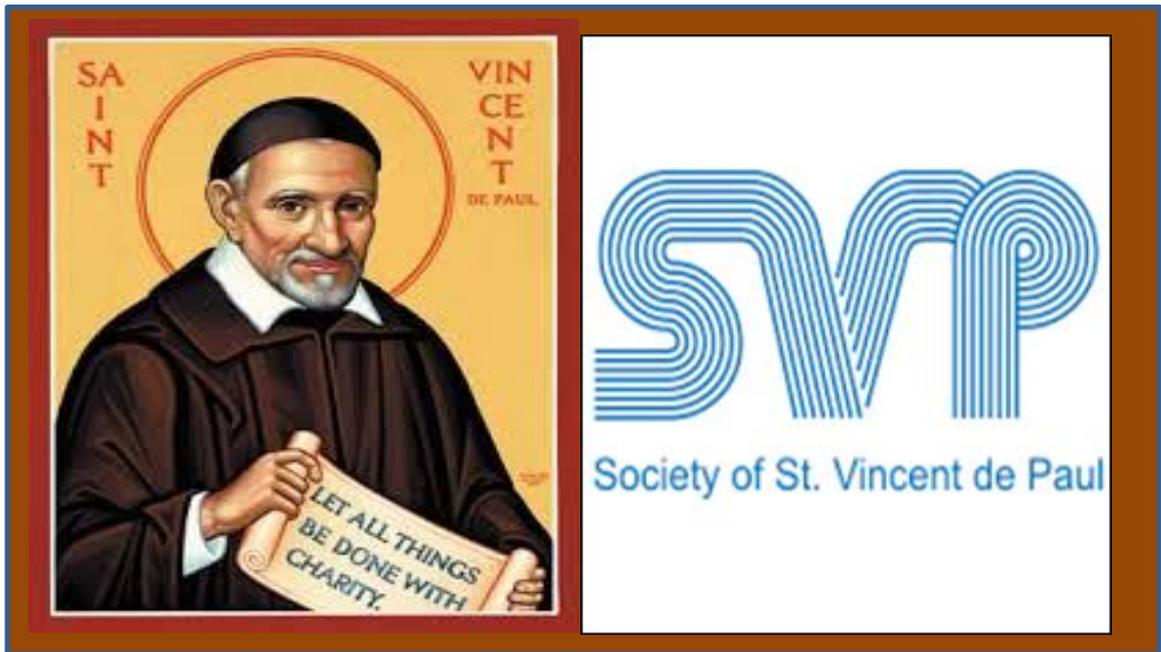


The Society of St. Vincent de Paul



St. Vincent de Paul Foxford Helpline 086 2306842

The Foxford society of St Vincent de Paul holds a meeting each Monday in the Brown Memorial Hall, Foxford, at 7.00pm.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) is an international voluntary Catholic Christian organization. The Society has been in Ireland since 1844 and has extensive experience of working with a diverse range of people who experience poverty and exclusion. Through a network of over 11,500 volunteers, it is strongly committed to working for social justice and advocates the creation of a more just and caring society. Inspired by the principal founder, Frederic Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul, the organisation seeks to respond to the call every Christian receives to bring the love of Christ to those in need: "I was hungry and you gave me food" (Matthew 25).

Who was St. Vincent de Paul?



"It is not sufficient for me to love God if I do not love my neighbour. I belong to God and to the poor."

Feast Day: September 27th.

Born: 1581 – Died: 1660.

Vincent was born in a town in Southwest France and was the son of poor French peasants. He was intelligent and was sent to study under the Franciscan friars at Acqs. After finishing his studies from the University of Toulouse, he became a priest at the age of 20.

At first, Fr. Vincent worked as a teacher for the rich and lived rather comfortably. But while he was traveling by sea from one city to another, he fell into the hands of Turkish pirates who sold him as a slave in Tunis. Two years later, after he was finally set free by one of his owners who he converted to Christianity, he returned to France where he served as a parish priest.

One day, Fr. Vincent was called to the side of a dying peasant. In front of many people, this peasant man declared that all his past confessions had been bad ones. Fr. Vincent then realized how the poor people of France needed spiritual help. When Fr. Vincent began to preach to the poor, crowds of people started going to confession. He finally decided to start a congregation of priests to work among the poor. He also started the congregation of the Sisters of Charity.