

## International Association of Charities - Vincentian Family



### ACTING TOGETHER – AGAINST ALL FORMS OF POVERTY

AIC UK is part of the 150,000 strong International group of, primarily, women whose spirituality is rooted in Vincentian tradition. Begun in 1617 by St Vincent De Paul, the Confraternities of lay volunteers help the disadvantaged in society. Groups became the Ladies of Charity – a name that many countries still use today under the AIC umbrella.

Groups in ABBEY WOOD, BEXLEY, DARLINGTON, GLASGOW, MILL HILL & PECKHAM.

Contact AIC UK: [info@aic-uk.org.uk](mailto:info@aic-uk.org.uk) [This email is linked to our website; aic-uk.org.uk](http://aic-uk.org.uk)

### CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Christmas is almost upon us, and we are busy once more in the run up.

In John Rybolt's book, *Advent and Christmas, Wisdom from St Vincent de Paul*, he quotes St Vincent: "Let's strive to conceive a great – a very great – esteem for the majesty and holiness of God. If our mind's eye were powerful enough to penetrate ever so little into the immensity of His sovereign excellence, *Jesus!*, with what lofty sentiments we'd be filled!" *Conference 30 of St Vincent de Paul.*



As we begin each day this week, pause for a moment and repeat the most used word during Advent: Come! Come Lord Jesus. Come into my heart.

What greater way for Jesus to come into our heart have we, than - as described by Fr Tomaz Mavric in his Advent letter to us - the Eucharist. Here, he tells us, "you can find and reflect, meditate, contemplate, adore, and have a personal encounter with all the stages of Jesus's life from the Incarnation on:

- Jesus in Mary's womb
- Jesus in the manger
- Jesus as a child in Nazareth living with his parents, Mary and Joseph
- Jesus in His three-year mission proclaiming the Good News
- Jesus in His suffering and death on the Cross
- Jesus's Resurrection
- Jesus's Ascension
- The Holy Trinity"



Let us make this meditation our own over the next few days before we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Let's remember to pray, "Come! Come Lord Jesus! Come into our heart. Amen."

A happy and holy Christmas to you all. Sr Bernadette Ryder DC. Spiritual Advisor



**KNOCK** – Ireland’s Marian Shrine. Meeting of the Vincentian Family Ireland 9<sup>th</sup> September. I was delighted to meet with AIC Dublin at the above pilgrimage with Vincentian parishioners of our Mill Hill, London Parish. We are delighted to have such a rich relationship in our 400<sup>th</sup> year!



**CARFIN** – Scotland’s National Shrine. Meeting of the Scottish Vincentian Family 30<sup>th</sup> September. It was wonderful to see AIC UK members from Peckham, Abbey Wood, Darlington and Bexley tumble off the same train as me from London.

Cynthia and her husband Irving had revamped our banner which is now very smart! We were treated to great hospitality by AIC Glasgow members who had helped organise the day. Fr Eugene Curran CM was the homilist and spoke of the “muck, magic and magnificence” of ordinary Vincentian values and service of others in Christ and St. Vincent’s name. It was yet again a wonderful reminder of the strength of our 400<sup>th</sup> year old charism



**MILL HILL 400<sup>th</sup>** - 2<sup>nd</sup> December, We were joined by AIC Peckham and Daughters of Charity including Srs Bernadette and Rita Quinn who created the pilgrim candle. Sr Margaret Barrett spoke about our founders Vincent & Louise’s different lives and how they collaborated

# THE END OF OUR JUBILEE YEAR - RETREAT DAY – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017





Tinyan's well worn, well loved Pilgrim scarf had one last outing on our special day. AIC UK were celebrating the closure of the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our foundation.

We were led by Sisters Bernadette, Kathleen and Fr Eamonn in reflecting the role of Mary and our personal encounter with God in how we support people in need. The Lectio Divina Isiah 40:1 the liturgy for 10<sup>th</sup> December "comfort my people" drew us into a compassionate circle of mutual love of service.

Sr Mai provided us with soup, and we all enjoyed ourselves share our packed lunch, copious cuppas n chat, interspersed by periods of silent reflection and prayer in the Daughters of Charity, Provincial House Chapel in Mill Hill, London.

We prayed too for our members and friends who could not attend, for all those living in poverty throughout the world, and for strength and hope that our AIC UK projects would continue to flourish and provide support for people in need.



*May I wish you and your friends and family every blessing for this special time of year.*

*We are reminded of the innocence of the child Jesus born into humble circumstances, who grew to bring good news to the world. Always the rebel, Jesus fought against injustice, always had time for those in need, and was an advocate for the marginalised. Let us use his strong example of how we in AIC UK can live our lives in service of others.*

*Love and blessings for a joy-full, hope-filled 2018!*

*Dee Mansi. AIC UK President*

