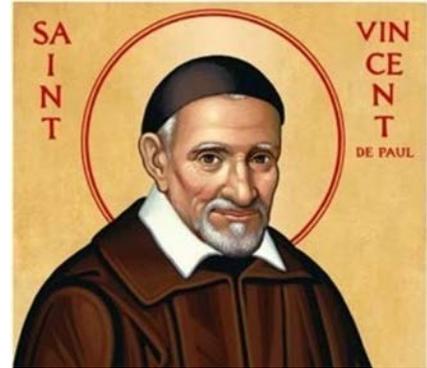


Yesterday, the church remembered Vincent de Paul, who dedicated his life to caring for the poor and sick. It seems appropriate to mention him today as we are hearing of so many more people having social restrictions placed upon them in this country to try and stem the growth of Covid cases and avoid another full lockdown. There will be many, many more poor and sick who need our care over the coming months – those who lose their jobs and struggle on benefits, those who catch this virus and need help, those who are simply too worried to come out of their homes, those who struggle because they are caring for others.



Today, and during this week, I ask no more of you than to hold these people in prayer. It seems like a simple request, but it is more powerful than either you or I realise. St Paul tells us not to pray for worldly things – so give thanks for all that is in the lives of the people affected, give thanks for living in a country where there is a welfare system and a health system, where there is an education system to create more scientists and health workers of varying types. This is the care we are asked to show to our fellow human beings, and it is care that we can all assist with.

To start you off, here is the Collect prayer of Vincent de Paul:

Merciful God,
whose servant Vincent de Paul,
by his ministry of preaching and pastoral care,
brought your love to the sick and the poor:
give to all your people a heart of compassion
that by word and action they may serve you
in serving others in their need;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

I wish you a healthy, safe and prayerful week.

Linda