

## Reflection Tuesday Week 26 St Vincent de Paul 2022

**St Vincent de Paul (1581 - 1660)** was born in Aquitaine and became a priest. He devoted his whole life to the service of the poor. He founded a congregation of priests for missionary work, groups of laymen to help paupers and galley-slaves, and, with St Louise de Marillac, the Sisters of Charity.

It would be good to be able to see into the minds of the saints. Why did they adopt their particular callings, what inspired them, how did they make their decisions, what courage and wisdom did they receive from God? We often ask these questions because they are the questions we face and the way ahead appears far from easy and certainly not very clear. Let us be inspired by Vincent's wisdom:

*If God is the centre of your life, no words are necessary. Your mere presence will touch hearts.*

*Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God and persons to one another . . .*

*We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings and wretchedness of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God.*

*We should spend as much time in thanking God for his benefits as we do in asking him for them.*

*I will always welcome joyfully any opportunity that comes my way to be of service to you.*

*We must love our neighbour as being made in the image of God and as an object of His love.*

*Let us allow God to act; God brings things to completion when we least expect it.*

*All beginnings are somewhat strange; but we must have patience, and little by little, we shall find things, which at first were obscure, becoming clearer.*