



SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA

Newsletter June 2020

The Five Elements of Serra

- † Spiritual growth in Christ
- † Religious education of the laity
- † Encouragement of church vocations
- † Responsive lay leaders
- † Association in Christian fellowship

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Serran Prayer for Vocations

O God who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech you, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Saint Joseph her spouse, Saint Junípero Serra and all the saints, an increase of labourers for your Church, fellow labourers with Christ, to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ Your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Perseverance in Vocations

O God, you have constituted your Only Begotten Son supreme and eternal Priest for the glory of your majesty and the salvation of mankind: grant that those whom he has chosen ministers and dispensers of his mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

To Serrans and Friends of Serra

I will continue to send out the monthly newsletter, albeit with a difference, during this time of isolation/social distancing directions.

Reminders

REMEMBER to say the Serran Prayer **DAILY** and 31 Club commitment.

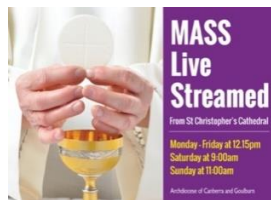
Trustees Meetings

Trustees met on 4th June and will meet again on 2nd July, 2020.

INTERIM ARRANGEMENT: On Thursday 11th June we will have **Rosary 6.10. p.m., Mass 6.30.p.m.at Curtin, followed by a meal at the Southern Cross Club.** Details about the meal in a separate e-mail to members. We hope to be back to normal in August with guest speaker Fr. Brian Lucas, National Director, Catholic Mission. Further information as directions dictate.

Important information for all; especially 31 CLUB members: please note that we continue to have Mass online daily, via the Catholic Voice Canberra Website:

<https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/>



Spiritual Communion Prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus,
 I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
 I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
 Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
 I embrace You as if You were already there
 and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Forthcoming Events

Adoration times have now resumed; with restrictions (social distance and 20 participants only).

Every Friday: Evening Prayer and Adoration, Mary Help of Christians, Pearce 5.30 p.m.-6.00 p.m.

1st July (First Wednesday): Adoration St. Brigid's Dickson, **Serra commitment** - 12.00 noon-1.00 p.m.

1st July (Wednesday): Feast Day St. Junípero Serra.

3rd July (First Friday): Adoration at St. Christopher's Cathedral following 12.15 p.m. Mass.

AN IMPORTANT EVENT ON THE SERRA CALENDAR
Annual Visit to the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush
29th-30th August, 2020

Max Spencer is making enquiries to check if this event will proceed as planned.

Always to go forward, never to turn back

Plenary Council Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land. O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council. Give us the grace to see your face in one another and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road. Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth. Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying. Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age. Amen. Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

**ANNIVERSARIES FOR PRIESTS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE (3rd year Serra Project)
PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING PRIESTS DURING THIS PERIOD.**

Serrans - if you would like to make a personal phone call or e-mail (only some priests have e-mail) contact me for details.

Name	Date of Ordination
Fr. Baiju Thomas (MGL)	25/06/2016
Fr. Stan Sniezek	29/06/1959
Fr. Christopher Blust (FSSP)	30/06/2001
Fr. Emil Milat	30/06/2000
Fr. Bill Kennedy (OAM)	16/07/1960 (also Fr. Bill's Birthday)
Fr. Brian Maher (OAM)	16/07/1966
Fr George Ogah	17/07/2010
Bishop Patrick Power (DD DCL)	17/07/1965
Fr. Jim Tierney	18/07/1964
Fr. Michael O'Halloran	17/07/1964

A beautiful prayer to Mary left by St. John Paul II as a legacy to families



WITSCHEL | DPA | dpa Picture-Alliance via AFP
Anna Ashkova | May 18, 2020

This private devotion was one of the secrets to his pontificate.

Everyone knows the deep love St. John Paul II had for Mary. On the 100th anniversary of his birth in this month of May dedicated to the Mother of God, we invite you to embrace this prayer for families that the Holy Father addressed to the Blessed Virgin.

From his childhood to his final days, St.

John Paul II maintained a special relationship with the Virgin Mary. For, indeed, the Mother of God played a large role in the life of little Karol, and then in his life as a priest and cardinal. As soon as he was elected to the See of St. Peter, he placed his pontificate under the protection of the Mother of God.

“In this grave hour which gives rise to trepidation, we cannot do other than turn our mind with filial devotion to the Virgin Mary, who always lives and acts as a Mother in the mystery of Christ, and repeat the words ‘Totus tuus’ (all thine),” he proclaimed in St. Peter’s Square in Rome on the day of his installation, October 16, 1978. Then on May 13, 1981, the pontiff miraculously survived an assassination attempt, and it was to Our Lady of Fatima that he attributed this miracle.

Throughout his life, he composed many prayers to the Mother of God, including this one, which families can use in their evening prayers during this month of May (and beyond ...).

*May the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, be also mother of the domestic church.
Through her maternal help, may every Christian family
truly become a little church
which reflects and relives the mystery of the Church of Christ.
May you who are the servant of the Lord, be our example
of a humble and generous welcome of the will of God!
You who are the mother of sorrows at the foot of the cross,
be there to lighten our loads,
and wipe away the tears of those afflicted by family difficulties.
May Christ the Lord, King of the Universe, King of families,
be present, as at Cana, in every Christian home,
to communicate his light, joy, serenity, and strength.
May every family generously add its share
to the coming of his kingdom on earth.
To Christ and to you, Mary, we entrust our families.
Amen.*

Pope at Audience: God does not abandon us, He is companion and guide

Pope Francis during his weekly General Audience on Wednesday continues his catechesis on prayer, focusing his attention on the “prayer of Abraham”.

By Vatican News

At the centre of Pope Francis’ catechesis on prayer at his General Audience on Wednesday was the figure of Abraham.

The Pope explained that with this “father in faith”, we see a new way of relating to God.

Abraham, recounted Pope Francis, hears a voice that resonates in his life. It’s the “voice that encourages him to uproot himself from his homeland, from the roots of his family, to move towards a new, different future.”

Abraham’s trust in God

The Pontiff underlined that Abraham does this on the basis of trust and the promise “that his lineage will be as numerous as the stars that dot the sky.”

With this trust, said the Pope, comes a new way of conceiving our relationship with God. “It is for this reason that the patriarch Abraham is present in the great Jewish, Christian and Islamic spiritual traditions as the perfect man of God, capable of submitting to Him, even when His will is difficult, if not even incomprehensible.”

From that point on, noted Pope Francis, the life of believers has been seen in terms of vocation, a personal call to live one’s life in fulfillment of God’s promises.

God as companion and guide

During his catechesis, the Pope described how, in the Book of Genesis, we see Abraham’s obedience to the word marks a radically new step in the religious development of man. “God is no longer seen only in cosmic phenomena, as a distant God who can inspire terror.”

The God of Abraham, he pointed out, becomes the God who guides our steps, who does not abandon us, and is the companion of our adventures.

Quoting from the Catechism, the Pope also stressed that “Abraham’s prayer is expressed first by deeds: a man of silence, he constructs an altar to the Lord at each stage of his journey.”

Obedience and faith

“Thus Abraham becomes familiar with God, capable of arguing with Him, but always faithful”, said Pope Francis.

He continued by saying that Abraham goes wherever God leads him, even to the ultimate test of being asked to sacrifice his own son, Isaac.

The Pope emphasized that “God himself will stop Abraham’s hand ready to strike because he has seen his total obedience.”

Concluding his catechesis, the Pope said that it is healthy to sometimes get “angry” with God because it is a form of prayer. Only a son or daughter is capable of arguing with a father and making up with him again.

“Let us learn from Abraham to pray with faith: listening, walking, engaging in dialogue to the point of argument, but always willing to accept God’s word and to put it into practice.”