



SERRA CLUB OF CANBERRA

Newsletter August 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.

Reminders

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

Trustees Meeting

Thursday 3rd September, 2020
6.00 p.m.

CHANGE OF ARRANGEMENTS:

Dinner Meeting with guest speaker Fr. Brian Lucas Thursday 13th August cancelled due to extension of restrictions for private rooms at CSCC. (Fr Lucas may visit us later in the year). Instead we will have Rosary 6.10. p.m., Mass 6.30.p.m. at Curtin, followed by a meal at the Hellenic Club, Woden. Members will receive an e-mail re attendance for 13th August.

10th September 2020 (Thursday):

Jubilarians' Dinner deferred due to restrictions. Further advice re this event.

Forthcoming Events

2nd-9th August: National Vocations Awareness Week.

8th August (Saturday): Feast Day St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

Adoration:

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

2nd September (First Wednesday):

Adoration St. Brigid's Dickson, Serra commitment - 12.00 noon-1.00 p.m.

4th September (First Friday):

Adoration at St. Christopher's Cathedral following 12.15 p.m. Mass.

Annual Visit to the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush

Proposed visit for 29th-30th August, 2020 cancelled.

Mass online from Canberra

To celebrate the Feast Day St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, there will be Mass at St. Christopher's Cathedral at 12.15 p.m. 8th August as well as online.

Mass each Sunday at 11.00 a.m., see the Catholic Voice Canberra Website: <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/>

Always to go forward, never to turn back

Additional opportunities to pray for Vocations [good news for 31 Club members]

In addition to the Adoration times and Masses listed above, the MGLs have the following times for live streamed Masses:

St Benedict's, Burwood Victoria - 9am Tuesday to Saturday inclusive, youtube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKnBdffdexV9-Pi6rU9y7UQ/featured> <https://stbenedicts.com.au/>

St Declan's, Penshurst NSW – They stream masses: Monday and Friday 6:45 am, Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15 am, Wednesday 5:30 pm, Saturday 8 am, Sunday 9 am. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMUpiYTtBvI-1M3Uj-3b9Vg>

St Benedict's, Narrabundah ACT - 9am Mass on Sundays through their Facebook page “St. Benedict’s Church and Mission Centre, Canberra”.

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.

Saint Francis

Extract from: The post *Saint Francis and Spiritual Growth Today*

[appeared first on Catholic Stand [<http://www.catholicstand.com/>]]

Although Saint Francis of Assisi was a medieval man, his life and vision inspire modern people, believers unbelievers alike because Francis has something to say to them today about how to fast, give alms, and pray.

In the opinion of this writer, St. Francis of Assisi lived Lent every day of his life after his conversion. Well-educated, young, and wealthy, after his conversion he sold everything he owned, gave it to the poor, begged for his food and clothing, and sought shelter in the wilderness of the mountains near his home town of Assisi. Though he had little in terms of material things, he gave to others not from his surplus, nor from his abundance, but from his need. If he had sandals and the beggar had none, without hesitation St. Francis was barefoot and the beggar was not.

One would think that people would shun a homeless beggar like St. Francis. I’m sure that many townspeople wondered why he stayed near Assisi; why not move away and stop bringing embarrassment to himself, his family, and friends? He was always well-liked and though he was the son of a merchant, he socialized and was accepted by the nobility of Assisi; he was a fun-loving, care-free, and a free-spirited individual.

How do you think his friends reacted to seeing him homeless and poor, begging and preaching in the streets of Assisi? According to the historical account, *St. Francis of Assisi A Biography* by Omer Englebert, St. Francis was at first rejected; his father for example refused to see or talk to him. But rejection was not God’s plan for this young and courageous man. When he spoke, people listened, as time passed, he gained the respect and attention of the townspeople; when he came into town they stopped what they were doing and went out of their way to become his audience. He was not unlike Christ who attracted people to himself wherever he went. His visits into Assisi, and later to surrounding towns, soon became celebrated events to the extent that some of his previous aristocratic friends followed his example; selling whatever they had, giving to the poor and devoting their lives to prayer, penance and preaching the gospel of our Lord.

BRUCE DOWNES – THE CATHOLIC GUY

“Consult not your fears but your hopes and dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.” (Pope John XXIII) - [The Catholic Guy inc.]

One quote from many by Martin Luther King Jr.

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”
— Martin Luther King Jr.

Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop reminds us “Never see a need without doing something about it”.