



SERRA CLUB of MELBOURNE Newsletter

April 2021

SERRA NEWS

This is the first Newsletter for the Serra Club of Melbourne since the celebration of the Charter of this club fifty years ago, on 19th February 2020.

As everyone is well aware, everything has had to be cancelled, or modified, but Serra is still alive, even though clubs are struggling. This means that one of our first, and very urgent tasks is to try to recruit new members. Ill health has forced Lyn Cronk and Ruby Edema to resign, and Jolyon Butler, who was inducted at the February 2020 meeting, is seriously ill, and in need of our prayers.

SERRA AUSTRALIA 50 YEARS

The Serra Club of Melbourne was Chartered on 28th January 1970, and so the Club thought it fitting to celebrate this event on 19th February 2020, the first meeting for the year. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli was approached to be the Celebrant for the Mass, and he readily accepted. All clubs were invited, and various priests who had been guest speaker, or from other contacts over the years, and some nuns who also have been involved with the club. Eleven priests concelebrated the Mass, and the Archbishop was assisted by Deacon Brian Murling. Club Chaplain, Fr Gerard Dowling OAM, gave the homily. He likened it to a conversation with Saint Junipero Serra and gave thanks that he had implanted in Serrans their belief in, and support for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

He said that it was a great joy to himself and to priests and religious, that Serrans gave such generous support with pray and friendship in that they encouraged them to follow God's call.

Father made special mention that our meetings commenced with the Rosary and the Mass. He also thanked Serrans for the Prayer Crusades and personal life of faith that was demonstrated by participation in Serra sponsored activities.

Father Gerard gave as an example that during his time as Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, he decided to arrange a BBQ for priests of the Diocese on Melbourne Cup Day and asked for assistance of the Serrans. This was readily given and was conducted each Cup Day when he was Dean.

He also mentioned the prayers for ill or deceased priests and religious, and fellow Serrans at each meeting.

Archbishop Comensoli spoke at the dinner that followed the Mass, and commended Serrans for their work and suggested that perhaps we could look at the possibility of starting clubs within some of the ethnic communities, as they demonstrate strong faith. The President of SCANZSPAC, Anne Larkins, thanked Archbishop Comensoli.

A wonderfully decorated cake to mark the occasion was enjoyed by those present, and table decorations also themed with the 50th Anniversary.

A total of fifty Serrans and guests were present including District 89 Governor, Bernie Roney, and Serrans from the Oakleigh Deanery, Sale and Bendigo enjoyed a Buffet Dinner.

During the Mass, the Archbishop inducted Jolyon Butler as a new member of Serra. Jolyon is the husband of Christine Butler and is the third husband and wife group that the club now has. Jolyon is the first member to be inducted by an Archbishop!

K.S.C. PRIESTS SUPPORT AND EDUCATION DINNER

The Annual Dinner, which was commenced in 1999, to raise funds to support our bishops with the education of Clergy and Seminarians for the four Victorian Dioceses and the Australian Military Ordinate, is proposed to be held on Friday 20th August 2021, at the Moonee Valley Racecourse. This function had to be cancelled in 2020, but it is anticipated that it will be alright

to proceed this year, and so subject to another outbreak of COVID19, it is scheduled to go ahead. Please note this date in your diary.

The Archbishop of Melbourne, Peter A. Comensoli has been confirmed as the Guest Speaker.

EVENTS

Last year our annual Retreat and Seminary Visit both had to be cancelled, but the Seminary Visit was conducted on Sunday 18th April 2021, and what a great day it was. All four clubs were represented, with a total of 32 Serrans joining with the Staff and Seminarians for a wonderful Mass and Lunch which followed.

Melbourne Serra Club President, John Short, thanked Fr Denis Stanley, the Seminary Staff, and the Seminarians. He especially thanked the Seminary Choir for their inspiring singing and the time spent preparing for the Mass.

He went on to explain that Serra International is an international organization of Catholic men and women and permanent deacons that is best known for:

- Its encouragement and support for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life.
- Its ongoing support of priests and consecrated men and women in their sacred ministry, and
- For the faith development among its members.

Serra International is recognized by the Vatican as the “Global Lay Apostolate for Vocations” in the Catholic Church and is aggregated to the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy which, among other things, has responsibility for seminaries.

The name of Serra comes from Junipero Serra who was a humble Spanish Franciscan missionary of great faith and pioneering qualities. He established a number of mission stations along the west coast of California in the 18th century and had a great ability to learn from and respect the dignity of the communities in which he served.

The motto that inspired his life and work was “Always go forward, never go back”.

Junipero Serra was canonized by His Holiness Pope Francis at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington D.C. on 23rd September 2015 in front of 25,000 people, including members of Serra International, in what was truly a joyous occasion.

Worldwide there are over 1,199 clubs in 47 countries on six continents and with membership exceeding 20,000 people reflecting the universal church. In Australia, there are 7 Serra International Clubs with around 170 members. In Victoria there are 4 Clubs including 2 in Melbourne—Melbourne and Oakleigh Deanery—and 2 in regional Victoria—at Bendigo and at Sale.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

May	26th	St. Catherine's Church, 2 Buchan Street, Moorabbin
June	23rd	Rosary 6.15 pm. Mass 6.30 pm. followed by Dinner
July	28th	Meeting in the Sweeney Centre.

SATURDAY MORNING MASS for VOCATIONS

May	St Joseph's, Chelsea	9.00am
June	St Peter's, Clayton	9.00am
July	St Finbar's, Brighton East	9.15am

MASS ROSTER

	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>
Reader:	Frank	Anne	John
Prayers of the Faithful:	Frank	Anne	John
Offertory Procession:	-	-	-
Minister of Communion:	John	Frank	Christine

Meals Clean Up: All Members urged to assist.