



SERRA CLUB of MELBOURNE Newsletter

April 2022

OBITUARY

Ruby Edema, a strong member for a number of years, died early in March. She had been unable to attend meetings for some months due to her poor health. A large congregation attended her funeral at St Joseph's Chelsea on March 10th.

GOOD NEWS

Allison Brodribb gave birth to their second daughter in March. Congratulations to Allison and Max on this wonderful news.

SEMINARY VISIT Twenty-six Serrans were guests for Mass and Lunch at Corpus Christi Seminary on April 3rd, This is an annual visit, and it was great to be able to meet the staff and seminarians, especially those that entered this year. A number of seminarians were on placement in parishes and so there was a reduced number in residence.

Fr Denis Stanley, Rector, invited our Club President to speak at the lunch, and so John Short gave an outline of what Serra is, in the following manner.

Serra International – Overview

On behalf of the members and guests of Serra International, I would like to thank Fr Denis, seminary staff and the seminarians for inviting us to join you in the celebration of the Mass at the beautiful Sacred Heart Church and to share lunch with you. It is always a great privilege and joy to be with you on this occasion.

We especially thank the seminarians for their time spent preparing for the Mass and the Seminary Choir for the wonderful music and singing.

We value so much the friendship we have with you all at Corpus Christi Seminary. That true friendship is at the core of the Serra International mission.

Serra International is an international organisation of Catholic men, 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 recognised 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.

We have a booklet and brochure which provides further background detail of Serra International for your information. We would be pleased to discuss the content of this material with you over coffee and tea after lunch.

Fr Dennis has asked me to touch on a few things that the members of Serra International are engaged in to encourage and support vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

Firstly, I would like to note our commitment to prayer.

His Holiness, Pope Francis, reminds us “that vocations are born in prayer and only in prayer can they persevere and bear fruit”.

Members of Serra International pray daily for vocations.

We also encourage others to pray for vocations through “31 Prayer Clubs” where people attend an extra Mass each month and pray daily for vocations.

The Melbourne Club has the privilege of attending Saturday morning Masses each month at 12 different Parishes in the region with a special devotion to pray for vocations. The Club very much appreciates the warm welcome from the Parish Priests, consecrated men and women, and parishioners of these parishes in support of this devotion including at St Joseph’s Parish, Elsternwick during this month of April 2022. Serra Clubs typically have monthly Club meetings which may also include Mass and guest speakers on relevant topics. The Melbourne Club is very fortunate to have as its Chaplain, Fr Gerard Dowling OAM DE who celebrates Mass prior to its dinner meetings and is a great source of wisdom and support.

Secondly, I note the importance of Parish encouragement for vocations.

Serra Club members are actively involved in Parish life, including vocation related activities and programmes, which helps to create a positive environment in which vocations can flourish.

Thirdly, we believe that it is important to explicitly recognise the wonderful work that priests and religious do in our community day in and day out often in a very quiet and unassuming way in the communities in which they serve and for their sacrifice. We do this through, for example, Appreciation lunches or dinners and Jubilarian activities

including the forwarding of cards to priests and consecrated men and women on the occasion of their significant anniversaries (around 250 cards per annum in the SCANZSPAC region which covers Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific). We hope that the annual Masses for Consecrated Life and for Parents, Families and Friends of consecrated men and women at St. Patrick's Cathedral can be resurrected as we move beyond coronavirus pandemic lockdowns. These Masses were very much appreciated by those who were able to attend including the fellowship that they facilitated.

I would also like to note the importance of financial support especially in relation to education and training.

Serra members support fundraising activities including those related to the Corpus Christi Seminary and for the Priests Support and Education Fund (eg. annual Archbishop's dinner organised by the Knights of the Southern Cross in Melbourne). The Sale Club will be having their annual Sports Day on Monday week which provides great support to the Sale region.

Support is also provided through the Serra Australia Foundation which is celebrating its 40th year this year. The Foundation has a long history of providing funds supporting programmes which foster, encourage and support vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. These activities are either undertaken by Serra Clubs themselves or referred by the Clubs to the Foundation for consideration and support. The Foundation has supported a wide range of activities over the years

including support for the expansion of facilities at the Corpus Christi Seminary. The long-term objective of the Foundation is to have sufficient funds to contribute directly to the education of priests and consecrated men and women.

Finally, I would like to thank the seminarians for being open to, and recognising, their calling to study for a vocation to the priesthood and for responding so positively to that calling.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for inviting us to be with you today and for your generous hospitality. We wish you a very happy and holy Easter and all the very best in the coming year.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

April 27th St. Catherine's Church, 2 Buchan Street, Moorabbin
May 25th Rosary 6.15 pm. Mass 6.30 pm. followed by Dinner
June 22nd Meeting in the Sweeney Centre.

SATURDAY MORNING MASS for VOCATIONS

April	St Joseph's, Elsternwick	10.00am
May	St Joseph's. Chelsea	9.00am
June	St Peter's, Clayton	9.00am

MASS ROSTER

	April	May	June
Reader:	Anne	John	Frank
Prayers of the Faithful:	Anne	John	Frank
Offertory Procession:	-	-	-
Minister of Communion:	John	Frank	Anne
Meals Clean Up:	All Members urged to assist.		