



SERRA CLUB of MELBOURNE Newsletter

June-July 2022

K.S.C. DINNER

The Annual Knights of the Southern Cross, Priests Support and Education 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 19th August 2022, at the Moonee Valley Racecourse.

This function had to be cancelled in 2020 and 2021, but it is anticipated that it will be alright to proceed this year, and so subject to another outbreak of COVID 19, it is scheduled to go ahead.

The Dinner has raised over \$1.3 million since its inception.

Greg Craven AO has been confirmed as the Guest Speaker. Greg was the Vice-Chancellor and President of the Australian Catholic University from January 2008 to January 2021.

Serra members have had a table at all these Dinners.

EXECUTIVE 2022/2023

The Executive for the coming 12 months was formally inducted during the Serran Mass on 22nd June 2022. A very welcome addition was that Christine Burdeos being inducted as Vice President, membership to assist Anne Larkins.

As all members are very aware, unless we can attract new members to join a vital organization that promotes vocations to the priesthood and or the religious life, Australia will be the poorer.

As our Chaplain said on the occasion of the Mass in February 2020, to celebrate the 50 years since the Serra Club of Melbourne was chartered, *'one of the most important contributions we as Serrans could make was our demonstration of our firm belief in the personal vocation of priests and religious, because as Serrans we can see that priests and religious are carrying out God's work'*.

He also made mention of the role that we play in our attendance at Mass on a Saturday at various parishes to remind people of the urgent need to affirm the ongoing vocation of

those who have already chosen the call by God, and to urge parishioners to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

The Mass was celebrated by Club Chaplain, Fr Gerard Dowling, and Fr Barry Tobin. Members from the Oakleigh Deanery Club and other guests joined to celebrate the occasion.

The Oakleigh Deanery Club celebrate the induction of their new Executive at a Mass at St Paul's, Bentleigh, on Thursday 7th July.

Vincent O'Brien was installed as President during the Mass, and the members and guests held a meeting in the Parish Offices and President Maureen Burrows gave a report on the club's activities for the past twelve months.

She announced the good news that Sister Elaine Cockrane has accepted the role of Spiritual Director for the Club.

Maureen also reported that as no club member was able to attend the Sale Club's Sports Day, they donated \$100 to them.

She also thanked John Short, President of the Melbourne Club (our Club), who spoke about Serra and the Travelling Chalice at Sunday Mass on 28th April.

The club also sent a donation of \$200 to Bishop Raymond in Sri Lanka, who is a strong supporter of Serra.

ORDINATIONS

On Friday 15th July, three deacons, Andrew Kwiathkowski, Brian Muling (who spoke at one of our club meetings) and Ignatius Tan were ordained to the priesthood at St Patrick's Cathedral.

FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA *(the following is part of a recent Homily by Fr Peter Mathieson)*

During the second assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, the Council's 277 Members—bishops, priests, religious and lay people—will all vote on the dozens of motions that have emerged from the four-year journey.

The Plenary Council concluded on 10th July. It involved four or five years of the Australian Church trying to discern what the Spirit was saying to the Church in Australia. A number of motions were moved and passed by at least a two thirds majority of the 240 odd consultative members, and 30 odd deliberative members (the bishops). Archbishop Comensoli wrote to Melbourne priests on Friday evening inviting them not to listen to

private reflections on what happened in the Council, but rather refer to the list of motions, and the two-page summary of proceedings as released by the Council. But those two documents say nothing of what happened on the Wednesday in the Council, and obviously Archbishop Comensoli did not see that event as indicative of the Spirit at work.

The Wednesday moment of the Spirit's disruption, the moment when the sciatic nerve of the Council was fired, came with the consideration of the motions on the equal dignity of men and women. It was passed by the members but failed to get the majority among the bishops. Shock waves went through the assembly. The bishops were stunned by the reaction. About 60 women stood in silent protest, and refused to continue to participate in the Council, it must be said that even a few priests and a couple of bishops stood with the women joining in their protest.

The Council was saved by the intervention of Bishop Shane Mackinlay of Bendigo, the deputy president of the Council, who led a redrafting of the motions, which were then passed on the Friday. The Council ultimately committed the Church in Australia to ensuring the experiences and perspectives of women are heard, considered, and valued at local, diocesan, and national levels; to ensuring women are appropriately represented in decision-making structures of Church governance at the parish, diocesan, and national level. And should the universal law of the Church be modified to authorize the diaconate for women, the Plenary Council recommends that the Australian Bishops examine how best to implement it in the context of the Church in Australia.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

July 27th St. Catherine's Church, 2 Buchan Street, Moorabbin
 August 24th Rosary 6.15 pm. Mass 6.30 pm. followed by dinner
 Sept 28th Meeting in the Sweeney Centre.

SATURDAY MORNING MASS for VOCATIONS

July	St Finbar's, Brighton East	9.30am
August	St Anthony's, Glenhuntly	9.15am
Sept	St Patrick's, Murrumbeena	9.15am

MASS ROSTER:

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

Meals Clean Up: All Members urged to assist.

